



Daily Report

Latin America

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16 August 1991

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CONTENTS

16 August 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Municipality Completes Precandidate Selection [Havana TV]	1
Government To Promote Association With Investors [Havana Radio]	1
Commentary Analyzes Santiago Military Meeting [Havana Radio]	1

Antigua and Barbuda

Labor Minister Chairs Committee To Save ALP [CANAL]	2
---	---

Barbados

Grenada Commutation Called 'Cowardly Act' [CANAL]	2
---	---

Dominica

DLP Leader Disappointed With Grenada Decision [CANAL]	3
---	---

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Names New Government Officials [Santo Domingo Radio/TV]	3
--	---

Grenada

Braithwaite Announces Reprieve of Death Sentences	3
Delivers Commutation Speech [CANAL]	3
Further on Commutation [CANAL]	5
Politician Criticizes Sentence [CANAL]	6
Amnesty International Lauds Decision [CANAL]	6

Haiti

Senate President Postpones Censuring Debate [Bonaire Radio]	6
---	---

Jamaica

Country Officially Devaluates Dollar [Bonaire Radio]	6
--	---

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Labor Party Leader Views United Opposition [CANAL]	7
--	---

Trinidad and Tobago

Senator Proposes System To Monitor Corruption [CANAL]	7
Hearing of Petition To Terminate BCCI Continues [CANAL]	7

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

FMLN Leader on Negotiations With Government [San Salvador Radio]	8
FMLN Defends Capture of Gregorio Zelaya [Radio Venceremos]	8
Cristiani Calls For Release [San Salvador TV]	9
Top Officer Condemns Kidnapping of Businessman [San Salvador TV]	9
FMLN's Shafik Handal Interviewed on Talks [Radio Farabundo Marti]	9
More on Interview [Radio Venceremos]	10
Attack on Home of Chief Justice Reported [San Salvador TV]	11

Guatemala

Government Officials Deny Coup Rumors [Hamburg DPA]	11
Army Arrests 7 Soldiers Involved in 'Massacre' [Panama City ACAN]	11
Gaitan on Purchase of Helicopters From Jordan [Mexico City NOTIMEX]	12
Belize's Right to Self-Determination Recognized [Panama City ACAN]	12

Panama

Arias Urges Awareness on Canal Administration [LA PRENSA 15 Aug]	13
Endara Comments on Remarks [Panama City TV]	13
Antiriot Police Disperse University Students [CRITICA LIBRE 15 Aug]	14

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Meets Lacalle, Signs Science Pact [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	15
Menem on Questioning of Narcotics Investigation [TELAM]	15
Chamber of Deputies Approves Common Market [TELAM]	15
Government To 'Defuse' Contract for ID Cards [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 15 Aug]	15

Chile

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Cuban Delegation [Havana Radio]	16
Nationalists Want Pinochet To Run for President [Santiago TV]	16
* PS Vice President Discusses Party, Policies [LA NACION 14 Jul]	16

Colombia

U.S. Embassy Plane Overflew Envigado Jail [Madrid EFE]	19
Intelligence Services Confiscate Arms Cache [Santa Fe de Bogota TV]	19
Officials Announce War Tax, Final Rebel Talks [Santa Fe de Bogota TV]	20
Reports on Government-Rebel Clashes 4-13 Aug [EL NUEVO SIGLO 4 Aug, etc.]	20

Ecuador

Fabian Alarcon Elected New Congress President [Madrid EFE]	21
* More Reaction to Pending Labor Reforms Noted	21
* Church Issues Statement [HOY 15 Jul]	21
* Mahuad Cites 'Errors' [EL UNIVERSO 15 Jul]	22
* Bush Initiative's 'Meager' Progress Viewed [HOY 22 Jul]	22
* 'Controversial' Priest Discusses Indian Groups [HOY 21 Jul]	23
* Poll Results Show Democracy 'Fatally Wounded' [LA OTRA 11 Jul]	23
* PRE Candidate Seeks 'Political Alliances' [HOY 19 Jul]	25
* PRE 'Presents Accusation' Against Falcon [HOY 19 Jul]	25
* Moscoso Favors 'Gradual' Economic Adjustments [EL UNIVERSO 22 Jul]	26

Paraguay

Cultural Agreements Signed With Ecuador [ULTIMA HORA 15 Aug]	27
Document Outlines Proposed Armed Forces Security	27
Part One [ABC COLOR 14 Aug]	27
Part Two [ABC COLOR 15 Aug]	28
Drafted by Pentagon [ABC COLOR 15 Aug]	29
Romero Says Concepts Outdated [ULTIMA HORA 15 Aug]	29
PLRA Requests Clarification [ABC COLOR 15 Aug]	29

Peru

Attorney General Receives BCCI Case Documents [Madrid EFE]	29
Bank Officials Deny Bribes [Hamburg DPA]	30
Senate Voids Decree on Teachers' Strike [AFP]	30
Shining Path Rebels Murder Municipal Candidates [Lima TV]	30

Cuba

Municipality Completes Precandidate Selection

FL1508151491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The election process for precandidates for Central Committee members and fourth party congress delegates has concluded in Plaza de la Revolucion Municipality.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] We are here in Plaza de la Revolucion Municipality to discuss with local party committee member Roberto Rondon how this was accomplished.

[Rondon] In this case, the process starts at the grass roots and reaches the upper levels. In other words, precandidate election meetings are held for Central Committee members and for fourth party congress delegates. Then all the information processed by the municipal grass-roots organizations is given to the provincial party commission created for this purpose. This commission is in charge of drawing up the slate of candidates to be approved by the provincial assembly to be held shortly. The provincial assembly also will be responsible for evaluating the result of this process throughout the province. To date, out of 1,164 grass-roots organizations, we have only selected 500 comrades as precandidates to the Central Committee. This shows that the party members, who number almost 18,000 in Plaza de la Revolucion, carefully thought out which candidates were really qualified to run as precandidates for the Central Committee. I think this is a really important factor to keep in mind. [end recording]

Government To Promote Association With Investors

PA1508162591 Havana Radio Havana Cuba
in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Raul Taladrid, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, stated in Havana that Cuba is not headed toward a mixed economy, even though it promotes association with foreign capital.

During a meeting with national and international reporters, Mr. Taladrid emphasized the option of socialist development chosen by Cuba, and added that the participation of foreign investors can be perfectly assimilated, since resources and production capacity is owned by the country.

The Cuban vice minister [as heard] pointed out that areas open to foreign investors are tourism, sugar by-product industries, crude oil exploration, cement production, textiles, shoes, the electronics industry, nickel mining, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment.

Commentary Analyzes Santiago Military Meeting

PA1508222891 Havana Radio Havana Cuba
in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Aug 91

["Our Americas" commentary by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Santiago de Chile was host last weekend to a very noteworthy meeting of South American military where they discussed the military's role in the present situation of the continent and the world.

Taking into account the role taken on by this sector in the destiny of the area in past decades, more than one comment has risen from South American political and social sources. Meanwhile, the military dream of occupying a central place in the destiny of nations has not ceased.

There are numerous examples that will demonstrate that a military mentality and behavior still exerts its influence over some civilian governments. This is so despite the fact that upon taking office the civilian governments make it perfectly clear—and once in a while they bring it up—that arms and uniforms belong in the barracks and only leave the barracks when the executive branch decides.

Thus threats, boasting, and deaf disagreement flow from the Armed Forces toward the governments of Argentina and Chile. In Colombia and Bolivia occasionally there are slight questions with respect to the military's performance in the controversial drug trafficking issue. Meanwhile, in Uruguay those who wear the olive green military uniform behave aggressively because they were put on trial or in jail because of the excesses committed in the past.

Retired members of the South American military recently met in Santiago de Chile to reflect on their future in societies that are ever more upset because of economic conflict, poverty, and frustration.

The two-day seminar that gathered military and civilian experts from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela was entitled "Civic-Military Outlook in Light of the New Security Challenges in South America."

It is being said that the novelty of the gathering in Santiago de Chile was the presence of high-ranking military officers from seven South American countries such as Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Colombia, and Venezuela.

Chilean sociologist Raul Zor was the person charged with publicly commenting some of the issues discussed during the meeting. He emphasized certain main issues such as the conditions under which the gathering took place given that South America is almost totally run by civilian governments.

He also emphasized the strengthening in South America of the Group of Rio, Mercosur [Common Market of the

South], and other economic groups; the distension between the two world powers; and U.S. military hegemony in the world sphere.

To Mr. Zor, this situation poses new challenges for the South American Armed Forces, with the Armed Forces having to face an identity crisis now that the hypothetical conditions they had to confront during the past decades have been removed.

What role did military officers play in the 1960's and 1970's and what will they do now since the end of the 1980's and in the 1990's? The question has no easy answer because the situation has changed and the military officers no longer have the pretext of having to repress insurrectional movements to justify their role of presumed guardians of national security. What does seem to cause concern to the military officers is the role they must assume in the face of U.S. preponderance in Latin America. Mentioned at the meeting were the U.S. opposition to medium-range missiles that led to the cancellation of Argentina's Condor program, the pressures to dismantle Argentina and Brazil's nuclear technical capabilities, the dismantling of the Panama Defense Force, and U.S. efforts to involve the military in drug trafficking repression in Bolivia and Peru.

Many questions may arise following this unprecedented meeting such as: zealotness? Fear of being displaced from a job that is fundamental to a country's livelihood? What leaves little doubt is that the concern of the South American military officers should be kept closely in check because one thing that is perfectly clear is that these forces—with some noteworthy exceptions—have never been on the side of the peoples. On the contrary, their alliances with the most reactionary sectors have only caused repression and rejection.

Antigua and Barbuda

Labor Minister Chairs Committee To Save ALP

FL1608151591 Bridgetown CANA in English
1418 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Aug 16, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's labour minister and first vice president of the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP), Adolphus Freeland, says he is beginning to chair a series of private meetings to save the party from collapsing. Freeland said Thursday Prime Minister Vere Bird has authorized him to do what he can "to save the Labour Party," in light of the recent resignation of four cabinet ministers.

Former deputy prime minister, Lester Bird; finance minister, John St. Luce; trade, industry, and commerce minister, Hugh Marshall; and minister responsible for the port, Henderson Simon, resigned from cabinet earlier this year complaining of arrogance and excesses in the Vere Bird administration. Freeland said he was now working with a five-member committee on a party-saving agenda.

"I have had my first meeting with a little committee of five, which should grow to 11 by our next meeting," Freeland said. He did not name the members of the committee, but Freeland said they were all ALP insiders.

Freeland said there was no attempt to meet with ALP backbenchers (Lester Bird, St. Luce, Marshall, and Simon). "We are meeting privately at the moment. If they (the backbenchers) want to meet, they can meet," Freeland said. Freeland accused the former deputy prime minister and his colleagues of giving a false impression of the differences within the Labour Party.

"Some have resigned from government, but not necessarily from the party, but they've gone out and they've been speaking and saying things that they should not really be doing as members and executive members of the party," he complained.

"...They are writing and addressing different fora to give an impression that you couldn't patch up your differences in your own party.... that the blemish is not yours, only the people who are left behind are fools. This is not very fair," Freeland remarked. Freeland said he would have preferred senior members of the ALP to meet and "iron out" their differences.

"If we have a problem, like homes will have, we could sit together and probably iron them out," he said. Making obvious reference to the prime minister and his son Lester, Freeland said: "It's not a matter of a two-man thing—one trying to convince the other, as I understood it—the leader and the chairman—one is trying to convince the other that he is going on the wrong path and the other one is trying to say that I have my own way of doing things, and I think that is the correct way."

Freeland said there was still hope for the ALP and "I, for one, will make sure that we push things from now onwards, and who don't want to comply with the rulings of the executive, then I would suggest that they leave the party," Freeland said the next group meeting was scheduled for next week.

Barbados

Grenada Commutation Called 'Cowardly Act'

FL1608003491 Bridgetown CANA in English
2101 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 15, CANA—Barbadian lawyer Robert "Bobby" Clarke on Thursday criticised Grenada's decision to exchange the death penalty for life imprisonment for 14 former government and Army officials convicted of murdering Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and others in 1983.

"In this particular case, I am against commuting the sentences which the law provides for, which the court has imposed, and which were upheld by the appeal court," the former adviser to revolutionary Prime Minister Bishop told CANA.

The Bridgetown-based lawyer, saying he generally abhors hanging, charged Grenada Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite with bowing to external pressure in reducing the sentences against the 14.

"The killings... were vicious, cool, and calculated and (the killers) were triumphant at the end of the killing," Clarke told CANA. "I think if they had been executed, it would have been a cleansing for Grenada and the Caribbean."

Clarke said Brathwaite, in a "cowardly" act, "played into the hands of external interests who want Grenada and other Caribbean countries to continue to have this fear that this kind of thing can happen in our countries."

Brathwaite on Wednesday night announced the commutation of the death sentences to life imprisonment for the 14.

Dominica

DLP Leader Disappointed With Grenada Decision

FL1508173191 Bridgetown CANA in English
1703 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Aug 15, CANA—Leader of the opposition Dominica Labour Party [DLP], Michael Douglas, on Thursday expressed disappointment with the Grenada Government's decision to spare the lives of 14 persons sentenced to death for killing leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and others in 1983. Douglas told CANA that the decision of the courts should have been carried out.

"I feel that history ought to adequately record what was the final fate of those who so cruelly, brutally, without any mercy, without any consideration fell upon their own comrades and slaughtered people who were so very much at the forefront of social and political change in the region in the early eighties," Douglas said.

Grenada Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite on Wednesday announced the death sentences were being commuted to life imprisonment. The 14 include former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, and former Army Chief Hudson Austin. Douglas does not believe that the clemency being shown is a fitting end to the story.

"The circumstance which gave rise to these considerations is one I think that might not in the final analysis lay down the necessary example to prevent this sort of thing from happening in the region again," he said.

According to Douglas, the region's interest in terms of stability and progress was not being served by the Grenada decision. Douglas also shares the views of Dominica's prime minister, Eugenia Charles, that keeping the 14 in prison for life may create the potential for instability. He said there could be threats from those wanting to free the 14 as well as from those wanting to see them dead and prepared to carry out their own lynching.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Names New Government Officials

FL1508184491 Santo Domingo Radio-Television
Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT
15 Aug 91

[Text] Dr. Joaquin Balaguer has designated engineer Eduardo Estrella to the post of secretary of state for Public Works by means of Decree 307-91. Estrella replaces engineer Marcos A. Subero, who has been named to head the Dominican Electric Corporation. The decree also designates engineer (Maniel) E. de la Cruz as executive director of the National Institute of Water Reserves and Sewers. President Balaguer designated engineer Serapio Terrero as executive director of the National Housing Institute to replace the aforementioned De la Cruz.

The president also named Ermes Quesada as bank superintendent, to replace Dr. Jorge Martinez Lavandier who has not been assigned a new post, and agrarian engineer Sergio Antonio Uribe Castro as national director of the Pedernales Project, replacement for Evelyn Curi de Moreta.

Grenada

Braithwaite Announces Reprieve of Death Sentences

Delivers Commutation Speech

FL1508234191 Bridgetown CANA in English
1956 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Aug 15, CANA—Following is the text of an address to the nation in which Grenada Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite announced a reprieve for 14 persons sentenced to death for killings in 1983:

"Fellow Grenadians, Carriacouans, and Petit Martiniquans, I believe that for most of you, the last four weeks have been a period of unbearable uncertainty. For me, it has been the most difficult in my life. I wish to thank those persons who seemed to recognize this by their suggestions and by their offer of prayers.

"I could not avoid reflecting on the first address which I gave to the nation in December 1983 as chairman of the interim government, when I condemned the brutal crimes which had been committed on October 19th, 1983. At that time, I sympathized with those who had lost their loved ones on that most bloody day in the history of our country. I pledged at the time that those who had committed those crimes would be brought to justice.

"The end came when Grenada's appeal court delivered its final verdict on 12th July, 1991. The general reaction was one of relief coupled with the demand that the death sentences should be carried out. Some of you were

concerned with the high cost of the trial; some feared that once those persons were alive, they would be tempted to commit crimes similar to those for which they were found guilty. Many were angered by the attitude of the condemned who do not seem to have any regret or remorse of conscience.

"At the same time, there were many persons, groups, and organizations at home and abroad that pleaded for clemency. Some groups and individuals are claiming that capital punishment is barbaric and uncivilized, and is against both the UN charter and the OAS human rights charter. We totally ignored the suggestions by some that the trial has not been fair.

"Arguments on both sides have been in some cases emotional, in others sincere and convincing. The legitimate concerns of those who supported hanging could not be ignored; the convictions of those who argued for clemency had to be considered. In the final analysis, however, a decision had to be made on the basis of what was considered best for the long-term interests of Grenada. On this important question, only an objective analysis and prayers for God's guidance might provide the answer.

"What appears to be a popular cry might not be the best course for a country. In 1979, there was popular support for the most serious crime that could be committed in a democracy, the removal by force and violence of a legitimately elected government. This is anti-democratic and could always be expected to end in a second coup. Thousands welcomed the overthrow in 1979, though it was a criminal act. Thousands more attended the rallies of 1979, 1980, and 1981, sanctioning a Godless system and an alien ideology which had overtaken the land.

"Some showed little feelings for those who were detained without trial, and those who bore the scars of torture by a regime which itself showed scant respect for human rights. In a sense, we unwittingly contributed to what took place in October of 1983. We in Grenada have spilled and shed much blood over matters political since 1973.

"Between 1973 and 1977, there were several cases of political bloodshed, some minor, others major. These involved physical violence and death. The bloodshed continued in 1979, and into the 1980's, climaxing with the bloodshed of October 19, 1983. We have had enough bloodshed in Grenada. In the process, wounds have been inflicted on our nation. Our people need to settle down, build a peaceful and stable country so that an atmosphere that is conducive to prosperity can be nurtured.

"We got a second chance to redeem ourselves through the assistance of friends on October 25, 1983, and to all of them we shall always be thankful. We strongly believe that their assistance was inspired by the almighty. That intervention resulted in my involvement in government. It was something which I had neither desired nor dreamt of. For me, then and now, national reconciliation was the way forward for our beautiful land, still showing the scars of political violence and bloodshed over the years.

We have pledged reconciliation. We have promised nation and unity. It is my deep conviction that the national interest will best be served through reconciliation.

"In this regard, there are three considerations which must be borne in mind. Firstly: Holding the government together must be the major concern of every prime minister. Secondly: Democracy must be given a real chance to flourish in this country. Thirdly: The confrontation of the past must now give way to and be replaced by a united effort for the common good.

"But the government was also mindful that in matters of life and death, man's judgement is not enough; God's guidance is needed and must be heeded. We prayed intensely for that guidance. The statement by the Grenada Conference of Churches and several messages from other responsible religious groups convinced us that the course of action which we were contemplating was the correct one.

"In accordance with our final conviction, the chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy has advised his excellency the governor general to commute the death sentences to life imprisonment for the 14 persons who were condemned to death. A similar recommendation will soon be made with respect to those who were sentenced earlier.

"Many of you and some of our neighbors will be disappointed with this decision to commute the sentence of the 14. I think especially of those who lost their loved ones on October 19, 1983. Our sympathy for them today is no less than it was eight years ago. Hanging might give them some satisfaction, but it would not bring back those who died.

"Some believe that once the 14 are alive, they pose a threat. I do not share that view because what they were supposed to stand for is no longer relevant. The world today in 1991 is vastly different from the world in 1983. The ideology that the PRG (People's Revolutionary Government) and their supporters were prepared to fight and kill for is now dead. The cold war is over. Russia and Eastern Europe, once the home of Communism, have not only rejected that doctrine, but have consigned it to the rubbish heap of history. The whole world is now clamoring for global peace.

"What the 14 need to do is to repent for their wrongs before God, and to apologize to the Grenadian people. We call on their relatives and friends, and those individuals and organizations that pleaded for clemency, to get the message across to them and to assume responsibility to assist in their rehabilitation. I know that I shall be the chief target of criticisms and even insults. This is your right in the democracy to which I am committed and which I vowed to uphold.

"I appeal to you all to save Grenada from further pain. Control your passions for the good of this beautiful land. Bitterness, hatred, and revenge cannot be acceptable characteristics of the country we are trying to build. Let

us renew our pledge to do whatever we can to give Grenada a positive image, an image of a peaceful and a stable country which would help determine the kind of future our young people would enjoy.

"I believe we should consider this the end of a chapter in the history of Grenada. What we need to do now is to begin a new chapter, reflecting the words of our motto, 'Ever conscious of God, we aspire, build, and advance as one people.' God bless Grenada, God bless you all."

Further on Commutation

FL1508133291 Bridgetown CANA in English
0247 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] According to officials, five of the 14, including Bernard Coard, the reputed mastermind of the conspiracy, were to be hanged on July 30. The plan, however, was scuttled by the last-minute filing of a defence motion seeking a rehearing of the appeal. Prison sources reported everything was in place for the hangings.

Brathwaite did not comment Wednesday night on the apparent change of heart but, based on a comment he made, there appeared to be differences within the government on whether to carry out the hangings. Brathwaite said "holding the government together" was one of three considerations that influenced the decision to commute the death sentences to life imprisonment. The others, he said, related to the need to give democracy "a real chance" to flourish in Grenada and the need to replace "the confrontation of the past" with "a united effort for the common good."

Brathwaite, who entered politics as the head of an interim government installed after U.S. Forces intervened here six days after the October 19 coup, said he was as committed then to national reconciliation as he is now.

"We have pledged reconciliation. We have promised national unity. It is my deep conviction that the national interest will best be served through reconciliation."

Brathwaite suggested appeals for mercy from religious groups like the Grenada Christian Council influenced the decision to commute the death sentences. He said the mercy committee also prayed intensely about the matter.

"The government (was) also mindful that in matters of life and death, man's judgement is not enough. God's guidance is needed and must be heeded," he said.

In an immediate reaction, Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles said while she was not criticising the Grenada Government, her decision would have been different had she been in Brathwaite's position.

"He (Brathwaite) lives there (in Grenada), he talks to people there, he hears the reaction of people and he is probably behaving as the people want," Charles said.

Charles, who pushed for U.S. intervention in Grenada after the bloodshed, suggested the island faced a long

term security problem with the 14 alive. But Brathwaite did not share this view. He said the communist ideology they espoused and were prepared to "kill and die for" was now dead.

"The world today in 1991 is vastly different from the world in 1983," he said, pointing to the collapse of communism and the end of cold war rivalry between the two superpowers.

"What the 14 need to do is to repent for their wrongs before God and to apologize to the Grenadian people," Brathwaite said.

He said the decision to commute the death sentences did not mean "our sympathy" for the families of the deceased was "less than it was eight years ago."

He however added: "Hanging might give them some satisfaction but it will not bring back those who died," he said.

Political associates of Bishop, grouped under the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), said the news of the commuting of the death sentences is "a sad day" for Grenada. Deputy leader Einstein Louison, noting a majority of Grenadians wanted the death sentences carried out, said the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) had retreated from its campaign promise to "let the people's voices be heard." He said the decision also gave credence to rumours during the 1990 election campaign that supporters of Bernard Coard had supported the NDC and that their backing was linked to a political solution to the trial.

"...What the prime minister has said gives a lot of credence to that very suspicion throughout the election campaign," the former Army chief of staff said.

Stressing a theme of national reconciliation, Grenada's Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite Wednesday night announced the commuting of death sentences on the 14 persons convicted of the 1983 murder of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

In a recorded 15-minute address broadcast on state radio and television, Brathwaite said the Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy had advised Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon on this course of action. Brathwaite, who left for Antigua after recording the address earlier in the day, said a similar recommendation would be made in respect of other prisoners on death row.

"We have had enough bloodshed in Grenada," Brathwaite said, pointing to the turbulent politics of the seventies and early eighties.

"Our people need to settle down, build a peaceful and stable country so that an atmosphere that is conducive to prosperity can be nurtured."

Brathwaite noted the decision may prove unpopular and indicated he was prepared to abide by the consequences.

"I know that I shall be the chief target of criticism and even insult," he told Grenadians. "That is your right in the democracy to which I am committed and which I vowed to uphold."

The so-called Grenada 14, including former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and ex-Army Commander Hudson Austin, lost their final appeal against the death sentences on July 12. Local, regional, and international organisations had appealed to the government for their lives to be spared.

Bishop, three Cabinet ministers, and other colleagues were lined up against a wall and shot during a October 1983 military coup that climaxed a bitter power struggle within the former Marxist People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

Politician Criticizes Sentence

FL1508151591 Bridgetown CANA in English
1439 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpt] St. George's, Grenada, Aug 15, CANA—Einstein Louison, deputy leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, on Thursday criticised the government's decision to commute to life the death sentence passed on 14 former military and government officials.

"It's really a sad day," Louison said after Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite's Wednesday night announcement that the group which killed leftist leader Bishop and members of his cabinet in a 1983 coup would be jailed for life.

"I've listened to the prime minister and he seems to be under tremendous pressure to make the statement. He has ruled out the basis for the existence of his government," Louison said.

Louison complained that Brathwaite's National Democratic Congress had failed to fulfill its elections campaign pledge and motto "Let the people's voices be heard."

"That was a major pillar of their campaign and their democracy," he said. "...They have destroyed that because the overwhelming majority of the people of Grenada are opposed to Prime Minister Brathwaite's statements."

He said the prime minister was not dealing with whether justice was done or not and the legality of the case.

Stressing a theme of national reconciliation, Brathwaite on Wednesday announced the commuting of death sentences on a group that included former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, and former Army Chief Hudson Austin. [passage omitted]

Amnesty International Lauds Decision

FL1508175291 Bridgetown CANA in English
1729 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] London, Aug 15, CANA—Secretary general of Amnesty International, Ian Martin, on Thursday welcomed the commutation of death sentences against 14 Grenadians for the 1983 murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop as a triumph for human rights in Grenada and the Caribbean.

"Amnesty International believes that this is an outstanding measure in promoting respect for human rights in Grenada and in the region," Martin said in a letter to Grenada Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite.

Brathwaite in a national broadcast Wednesday announced the decision of the island's mercy committee, ending wide expectation that the 14 former government and military officials would be hanged after the recent confirmation of their sentences by the Grenada Appeal Court.

"Commutation of death sentences is an affirmation of the value of life and is in keeping with international human rights standards and world progress towards elimination of the death penalty," Martin said.

"We hope that such a humanitarian measure will provide an important example to other governments who may be encouraged to take similar steps."

Haiti

Senate President Postpones Censuring Debate

FL1508120991 Bonaire Trans World Radio
in English 1130 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The president of the Haitian Senate has decided to postpone debate on a motion censuring the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Senate President (Edricie) Raymond said he took the action for security reasons.

Hundreds of pro-government demonstrators surrounded the Parliament and threatened the lawmakers on Tuesday [13 Aug]. Debate on the motion will resume next week.

Jamaica

Country Officially Devaluates Dollar

FL1508125291 Bonaire Trans World Radio
in English 1130 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The Jamaican dollar has been devalued again. It had been 11 Jamaican dollars to the U.S. dollar and now, as of yesterday, it is now 11.41 selling and 10.97 buying. It has been over a year since the last official devaluation of the Jamaican dollar.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Labor Party Leader Views United Opposition

FL1608122691 Bridgetown CANA in English
1212 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Aug 16, CANA—The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Labour Party has not ruled out a merger of opposition forces but is not interested in a unity of convenience, party leader Vincent Beache says.

"We in the Labour Party are not against a merger or an association—what we do not want is a marriage of convenience because we know marriages of convenience do not last," Beache told CANA.

Efforts by a pressure group—the Movement Against Oppression—to unite the three opposition parties here were terminated earlier this year due to an apparent lack of enthusiasm among politicians. The leaders of the Movement for National Unity and the United People's Movement said the idea of a united opposition had not been abandoned [words indistinct] were no new initiatives to bring this about.

The issue is not on the agenda for consideration at the annual convention of the Labour Party slated for next month, Beache reported. Beache said the party will be looking at the questions of caretakers for the 15 constituencies, constitutional reform, the state of governance, and the need for electoral reform. None of the opposition parties here won a parliamentary seat in the last election, held in 1989.

Trinidad and Tobago

Senator Proposes System To Monitor Corruption

FL1508203091 Bridgetown CANA in English
1901 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 15, CANA—A Trinidad and Tobago Government senator has recommended establishment of a joint select committee of Parliament to monitor financial malpractices in government ministries. Alloy Lequay made the suggestion following the tabling of the auditor general's report which highlighted fraud, financial losses, and irregularities in the public service.

Lequay, leader of government business, said this week that the committee would have the authority to summon accounting officers to explain shortfalls in the various ministries.

"This would ensure debate and early exposure of inefficiencies and malpractices," said Lequay in a statement to the Senate. Auditor General Joycelyn Thompson in her 1990 report listed a number of queries to accounting officers which had gone unanswered.

"Perhaps if this process were in force, it could have saved millions of dollars to assist with salary payments to public servants who are themselves guilty of gross dereliction of duty," Lequay said.

He also suggested that the auditor general be given the authority to meet with government accounting officers to ensure that they are aware of their instructions, and to emphasise the need for timely responses to queries.

"After that, disciplinary action should be taken against accounting officers who violate instructions. Certainly those who cannot perform efficiently in this most important function should be removed," Lequay suggested.

Hearing of Petition To Terminate BCCI Continues

FL1508201591 Bridgetown CANA in English
1853 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 15, CANA—Hearing of a Central Bank petition to wind up Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), Trinidad and Tobago, will resume Wednesday, after being adjourned Thursday at the request of a lawyer for two depositors.

"I'm seeking the best interest of my clients," Indal Haracksingh told Justice Lennox Deyalsingh while informing the court that he has sought information on certain developments to protect BCCI depositors in the Cayman Islands.

Cayman, Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad BCCI operations were halted in a worldwide move initiated by the Bank of England to shut down BCCI branches because of reported evidence of fraud in several of the operations.

Haracksingh, appearing for depositors Daila and Sita Boodram, told the court he is not opposed in principle to the wind-up petition and will file an affidavit when he receives the information sought from the Caymans.

Justice Deyalsingh said if nothing is put before the court at the hearing next Wednesday, he will proceed with the matter, in which the Central Bank is asking the court to wind up BCCI here on the ground that an examination of its books shows its continued operation is likely to result in losses to depositors and other creditors.

The bank was unrepresented in court Thursday and Attorney Nigel Hewitt, appearing for the petitioner, Inspector of Banks Victor Jeffers, told the court BCCI had been served a copy of the petition. The National Commercial Bank Trust Company, a BCCI creditor which is not opposing the petition, was represented in court.

Cayman Islands' provisional liquidator Ian Wight of the accounting firm of Deloitte, Ross, and Tohmatsu (DRT) has not ruled out the possibility that a reorganisation plan to keep the bank from closing permanently might be presented by BCCI stockholders.

El Salvador

FMLN Leader on Negotiations With Government

PA1608043991 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with FMLN, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, leader Salvador Samayoa in Mexico City by Reporter David Rivas in San Salvador on 14 August—recorded]

[Text] [Rivas] We would like to ask you what happened with the dialogue that the Salvadoran media said was going to be held between the government and the FMLN in Mexico City this week?

[Samayoa] The fact is the report is false. No meeting was scheduled with the government in Mexico on 12 August. We read various news agency reports and an article in the 13 August edition of San Salvador's EL DIARIO DE HOY saying that the negotiations had been scheduled to resume in Mexico on 12 August. That information is false. The truth is on 9 August the mediator told us that President Cristiani had said he does not want to hold direct negotiations until various problems are addressed through bilateral meetings between the mediator and each side. Therefore, the position of the Salvadoran Government is that no direct meetings be held. In view of this request by President Cristiani, the mediator has not scheduled the next direct meeting between the two sides. The report that there was going to be a meeting on 12 August is false and therefore, the report that such a meeting was canceled is also false.

[Rivas] In our country, some political and social sectors, including the Christian Democratic Party, have voiced concern about a possible increase in violence in El Salvador because of the standstill in the negotiations. What is your opinion?

[Samayoa] First of all, I do not think the negotiations are bogged down so that could not be the reason for an increase in violence. The negotiations are in a difficult, decisive, and critical phase. Progress has been made. We also feel there are some points about which the government is not yet willing to finally reach agreement on, something that the country needs. Nevertheless, I do not think one can absolutely say that the negotiations are bogged down. As far as the FMLN is concerned, we are not interested in intensifying military actions or of complicating the situation. What has been occurring is that there has been quite a large increase of repressive actions by the public security forces and the armed forces throughout the country. The government has also been issuing a number of economic measures, which are viewed by most of the political and social sectors as a provocation because they are measures that severely harm the interests of the people. They harm them in vital ways. An example is the dismantling and privatization of the Supply Regulation Institute. This is obviously strongly opposed by nearly all political parties and social organizations. It is this type of economic policy by the

government and the unleashed repression that are creating a climate of greater violence. However, the FMLN has no interest in increasing military actions. We only do so and we will only do so to the extent that the Armed Forces continue their own operations against our forces. Therefore, our action is in response to such operations.

[Rivas] The FMLN met with leaders of Salvadoran political parties in Mexico City last week. When they returned to San Salvador, these political leaders spoke about the FMLN's plan to modify the general agenda of negotiations that was agreed upon in Caracas in 1990. It is also said the FMLN plans to again propose the merger of the Army with the FMLN forces. This idea was ruled out in 1984 in the first dialogues between the guerrillas and the government of then President Jose Napoleon Duarte. Can you comment on this?

[Samayoa] Well, this is quite [words indistinct]. We have not formally presented a new proposal at the negotiating table. What we have done is explored, through special channels with President Cristiani and political parties, the idea that we believe it would be more advantageous for everyone if we would simplify the current two-phase negotiation process and try to reach agreement on a single phase negotiation process. This would lead to a definitive cease-fire, something that our country needs and that most of the political and social sectors would support. Therefore, the change in format is not yet a formal proposal by the FMLN. We are exploring this option and consulting with various sectors, seeking their opinion on merging into a single phase the two phases of the negotiations so that we can reach a definitive cease-fire as soon as possible. This is an initiative by the FMLN in the spirit of trying to resolve the issues that are the most difficult in the negotiating process. What we have told the political parties is that we should address the problem of the future of the two military forces—which is one of the main problems in the negotiations—as soon as possible. We should find a solution to this problem because it would allow us to reach a definitive cease-fire soon. This is what the entire country, the entire society, and all our people want. That is why we are privately exploring different options or possibilities to solve the problem of the future of the military forces in the country. That is my comment on the remarks that have been made in this regard.

FMLN Defends Capture of Gregorio Zelaya

PA1508135891 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos
in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Taking into consideration that Salvadoran justice is meted out only upon the country's poor, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] justice will be meted out upon criminals. In this respect, Mario Alberto Mijango, lieutenant colonel of the National Army for Democracy and member of the leadership of the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front, has said that FMLN revolutionary justice has sought Gregorio Zelaya since 1987, because he is accused of multiple crimes.

According to Lt. Col. Mijango, these multiple crimes include financing the death squads of the Salvadoran Armed Forces; creating a battalion, which Zelaya dubbed the Hawks Battalion, to repress civilians in areas under FMLN control; and promoting counterinsurgency plans, together with the Armed Forces. Based on remarks by many officials that the FMLN has violated the human rights agreement signed in San Jose, Costa Rica, Mijango stated that Gregorio Zelaya's capture can in no way be considered a human rights violation, since the aforementioned agreement does not include any kind of amnesty for those who may have committed crimes and are being sought by revolutionary justice.

Cristiani Calls For Release

PA1508224591 San Salvador TCS Television
Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani has said that the dialogue with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] would be held in a better atmosphere if farmer Gregorio Zelaya is released.

For the time being no talks are scheduled but, according to the president, UN mediator Alvaro De Soto is the one who is trying to set a date for a new meeting between the government and the FMLN. President Cristiani has not seemed too eager to talk since it was confirmed that farmer Gregorio Zelaya was kidnapped by the insurgents.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] The peace process requires confidence that the agreements will be fulfilled. In this sense, we feel the FMLN has no other option but to correct this violation of the agreements by releasing the kidnapped individual.

[Unidentified reporter] Does this mean that the government will sit down to negotiate with the FMLN before Mr. Zelaya is released?

[Cristiani] I believe that the violation must be corrected. This is part of the work of the United Nations. I think there will not be any problem. I think things are moving on the right course so that this violation will be corrected. [end recording]

The Salvadoran president insisted that the United Nations is making the necessary efforts to obtain the farmer's release. President Cristiani said the FMLN, on its own initiative, must reconsider its attitude.

Top Officer Condemns Kidnapping of Businessman

PA1608023991 San Salvador TCS Television
Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Report by Samuel Arias]

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] response on the matter of kidnappings does not seem to please the Salvadoran Armed Forces. The FMLN acknowledged holding a businessman who belongs to the ruling Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] but termed

it a captured instead of a kidnapping. Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, deputy chief of staff, felt that this action constitutes a clear violation by the guerrillas of the agreement on human rights that covers individual freedoms. More than he said, it is an insult to the people for the FMLN to depict the incident as a capture.

[Begin Vargas recording] It is insolent and irresponsible of the FMLN. First, we have the fact that he was kidnapped, which is totally irresponsible. Also, the justification they are giving to a democratic society is insolent, for we can certainly say that a democratic society does not accept this talk of an arrest or a capture. The law clearly defines this concept. No individuals, let alone unconventional groups, are going to take on rights that a democratic society has clearly described in its constitution and working structure. [end recording]

Col. Vargas said this is a delicate matter and, although it is not directly related to the delay in the talks, one cannot deny it has had an impact on the process. Vargas, who is a member of the government delegation, felt that if the FMLN does not abide by the agreement to respect human rights it will be very difficult to advance to another topic.

[Begin Vargas recording] I think we cannot advance on any topic or in any agenda as long as the concept of kidnappings and restrictions of individual freedoms, agreed on by the sides, are not kept. I think this situation is unacceptable and we must openly state that. If they do not abide by an agreement today, what kind of agreement can we reach or what assurance can we have that future agreements will be kept? [end recording]

The top officer denied a talking session was scheduled for this week. He said that the date of the next meeting was not established in the last session held in July, adding that it will most likely take place at the end of this month. Col. Vargas also criticized the FMLN for the delay in reaching a cease-fire. The FMLN is raising similar charges against the government and the Armed Forces. The fact remains that in 20 talking sessions, conducted over approximately 20 months, only two agreements have been reached. One deals with human rights and the other with the approval of constitutional amendments. People continue to wait for a cease-fire that is reportedly just around the corner.

FMLN's Shafik Handal Interviewed on Talks

PA1508130591 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo
Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Aug 91

["Part I" of report on interview with Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, member of the General Command Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, and chief negotiator in peace talks with the Salvadoran Government, by Mexico City EL EXCELSIOR in Spanish—date and place not given]

[Text] After 11 years of war, according to Commander Shafik Handal, the [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] FMLN has begun preparations to form a

political party and participate in the presidential elections in 1994, whether a peace agreement has been signed or not. The veteran commander stressed: We will never demobilize unilaterally. He added: We will occupy the political space that we have earned as a contribution toward peace, whether the government likes it or not.

The chief negotiator explained that five parties comprise the FMLN and that they will try to present only one image in the open political struggle, while maintaining each party's identity and the collective positions of the front.

The rebel commander said: We have begun this process simultaneously with the negotiators, and whoever is against it will be singled out as being opposed to peace and democracy.

The FMLN commander stated: We want to move from the armed struggle to the political struggle, for which we will take advantage of the historic debate on a reduction in military forces so that the two armies will eventually disappear and to find a solution to 60 years of military dictatorship. Handal stressed the existence of the two armies and said that a unilateral demobilization will not guarantee peace, because the Armed Forces will try to crush it. In that sense, he recalled the position of General Ponce, who has said that there will be no peace until the FMLN has been defeated. Such a position does not show a will to negotiate, Handal said.

The high-ranking leader of the FMLN said: There is a consensus among all sectors in El Salvador on the proposal that calls for the elimination of the two armies. He added: A security system similar to that in our sister nation of Costa Rica, is considered acceptable.

The rebel leader strongly stated that the weapons of the FMLN are a guarantee for its militants, as well as the population. The population itself has told us, Handal contended, that if we unilaterally surrender our weapons and come down from the mountains, as we descend, they will arm themselves and go up into the mountains to protect themselves from being annihilated.

More on Interview

PA1508134691 (Cicndestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Aug 81

["Part II" of report on interview with Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, member of the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, and chief negotiator in peace talks with the Salvadoran Government, by the Mexico City newspaper EXCELSIOR—date and place not given]

[Text] Handal, who is 60 years old and has dedicated 46 years of his life to a political struggle for democracy, said that the negotiations have entered a decisive phase, hence, they have become more difficult.

Handal said: The military leadership and the government have to adopt decisions on critical issues, and this has resulted in contradictions and problems.

The rebel leader recalled: Following the round of negotiations in Mexico City in April, it became evident that the government, the Army, and Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] opposed any progress in the negotiations.

It seems that far-right groups considered the negotiations to be intended simply to bolster the government's image. They now see that they are for real, so they oppose them, Handal said.

Commander Handal added that this has provoked a tense situation in the government, the Army, and Arena, which have unleashed cruel repression to spread terror among the population, even among groups that support the regime but advocate negotiation.

Commander Handal said that new pressure is being exerted by the death squads, which believe that the FMLN can be militarily defeated and that it is just a matter of time. Consequently, the government has blocked the negotiating process.

Handal said: The 11-year war has reached a military deadlock and we must end the war through negotiation. The Armed Forces and the government must admit the reality of armies, neither of which has managed to win.

Likewise, Handal accused the United States of extending the war. He added that, despite the substantial military aid given to the Army, it has not been able to prevent the military standoff or to stop the guerrilla movement from becoming an Army. The key to the continuation or end of the war lies in the U.S. aid to the Army, and this aid has enabled the military to consider war a business, which they do not want to end, he said.

Referring to the U.S. version of alleged support for the FMLN from socialist countries, Commander Handal emphasized: Eastern Europe has collapsed and the Soviet Union and Cuba face difficulties, while we continue—not only alive, but strong.

Handal added that those who thought the war in El Salvador was part of the East-West conflict were simply wrong because they refused to admit the reality that prevails in our country.

Talking about the activities of guerrilla groups and the war in Latin America, Handal said: I do not like to make predictions and would not dare predict anything. The guerrilla commander added: We participated in an electoral struggle in the 1980's and the result was massacres, exile, and persecution—and this led us to the current war.

Latin America has achieved progress with regard to democracy but the social and political situation has deteriorated, Commander Handal said, adding that militarism can rise once again because the process of changes has not been consolidated throughout Latin America.

Attack on Home of Chief Justice Reported

PA1608041691 San Salvador Canal Doce
Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] On 15 August unidentified individuals fired at the residence of Supreme Court Chief Justice Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, wounding a guard who was protecting the building located in the Escalon neighborhood. The Armed Forces Press Committee blamed the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] for this incident. The wounded guard, whose name was not disclosed, belongs to the magistrate's security service. He was taken to the military hospital and is recovering satisfactorily. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack on Gutierrez Castro's home. At the time of the incident he was in his office in the Supreme Court.

Guatemala

Government Officials Deny Coup Rumors

PA1608012291 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2329 GMT
15 Aug 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 August (DPA)—This afternoon high-level Guatemalan Government officials denied rumors of a coup d'etat that supposedly will occur during President Jorge Serrano Elias' scheduled trip to Honduras.

The rumors apparently started with the arrest of several officers at the Pacific naval base, including base commander Captain Ruben Anibal Giron.

An official bulletin will be issued giving the reasons for the officers' arrest but the incident ignited rumors of an alleged uprising at the naval base and elsewhere in the country.

President Serrano traveled to Honduras by sea today. He left the Atlantic port of Santo Tomas in Guatemala for the Honduran Roatan Island. He will rest there until 19 August, when he is to meet Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas to discuss a free trade agreement.

The coup d'etat rumors spread through Guatemala and many officials have been questioned about the situation.

However, Guatemala City is quiet although stores are closed and traffic is slow because it is a holiday today. The Guatemala City residents celebrate the day of the patron saint of the city, the Virgin of the Assumption.

It has been reported that the diplomatic corps has held an urgent meeting this afternoon that could be related to the alleged coup d'etat and the situation of the country in general.

Army Arrests 7 Soldiers Involved in 'Massacre'

PA1608035591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0107 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—A shoot-out took place at the Pacific Navy Base after Guatemalan Army troops arrested seven soldiers, including four officers. These soldiers are being charged with killing 11 people on 9 August in Escuintla Department, located in the southern part of the country.

Diplomatic sources told ACAN-EFE today that Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias met with the diplomatic corps responsible to explain the arrest of the soldiers, as well as the "skirmish" that took place.

The source, who spoke on the condition that his identity be kept secret, said: "It is not known if the shoot-out resulted in casualties, but the president said that everything was under control."

On 9 August, 11 bodies—10 men and one woman—were found with signs of torture and a "final shot" to their heads, a characteristic attributed to the "death squads," on the road from Escuintla to the town of Taxisco in the south near the Salvadoran border.

Today the Army charged Captain Anibal Ruben Giron Arreola, Capt. Mario Garcia, Infantry Lieutenant Luis Pedro Alonso Guerra, and Military Reserve Lt. Ever Galindo Lopez, with being directly responsible for this massacre.

In addition, the Army charged Specialist Jorge Alberto Gonzalez Oliva, Corporal Gilberto Jesus Campos Morales, and Navy Infantry soldier Tito Martinez Perez, all from the Pacific Navy Base, located at the Port of San Jose, with participating in this massacre.

This is the first time that the Guatemalan Army directly charged members of that institution with murder and arrested them to stand trial in military courts.

In Guatemala, violence has resulted in the death of more than 1,000 people and the disappearance of at least 161 others so far this year. Meanwhile, humanitarian organizations have reported 150,000 deaths in the undeclared civil war that has devastated the country.

Sources from humanitarian organizations questioned by ACAN-EFE have stated that, regardless of the casualties caused by the fighting between the Armed Forces and the guerrillas; the massacres, illegal killings, and other human rights violations are the responsibility of the military, the "death squads," and the rebels.

Gaitan on Purchase of Helicopters From Jordan

PA1508174391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0138 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Helicopters from the Jordanian Government were purchased without anyone receiving an "extra" commission, Guatemalan Chief of Staff Edgar Godoy Gaitan said here today.

Godoy denied that the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) had participated in the Guatemalan Air Force purchase of U.S.-made Sikorsky helicopters.

He said the transaction "was not effected in a hasty manner, but was carried out after a preliminary technical report had been drafted by the Guatemalan Air Force." He said that this is the first time the country has purchased U.S. aircraft other than the traditional Bell helicopters.

The military officer said that the purchase of the S-76A Sikorsky helicopters from the Jordanian Royal Air Force was facilitated via the "Mura International S.A." company.

He added that, based on a report drafted by the Presidency and the Defense Ministry, first they had thought about purchasing six 212-Bell helicopters, two S-76A ambulance-type helicopters, and three S-76A executive-type helicopters.

The chief of staff said that in June 1987 a technical commission from the Guatemalan Air Force traveled to Jordan to inspect the helicopters and that an offer had already existed by then, which had been presented by the Banco de Guatemala (BANGUAT).

In May 1988 the executive vice president of "Mura International S.A.," Alberto Coppo, sent the former Guatemalan defense minister a bill for two Sikorsky S-76A helicopters, priced at \$1.25 million each, as well as a bill for another similar aircraft for \$1.2 million.

The bill included a list of spare parts to be used for a period of three to five years worth \$1.375 million, as well as insurance and the cost of freight to Guatemala, nearly \$100,000, all for a total of \$5.175 million.

Godoy said that after everything had been agreed upon and on instructions from former Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, a contract was signed for the aforementioned equipment on 9 June 1988.

He added that by this time the government had obtained financing from the Capital Bank of Miami, Florida, which would be allocated for the purchase of the 212-Bell helicopters, but it did not take place because the Jolla Aviation company did not fulfill its agreement.

This situation, he said, led the Guatemalan Finance Ministry and the BANGUAT to recommend the use of these funds for the purchase of the Sikorsky helicopters.

Representing the parties were Chief of Staff Edgar Godoy Gaitan from the Guatemalan Government and Alberto Coppo, Louis Altamar, and Mauricio Eduardo Coronado from "Mura International S.A."

The official indicated that following these actions, in which one Guatemalan technical delegation inspected and selected the best aircraft in Amman, the helicopters and spare parts were sent to this country via Amsterdam; Holland; and Hamburg, Germany.

The price of the purchased aircraft paralleled those listed in specialized aircraft sale publications edited in the United States, Godoy noted.

The official added that the negotiations were not carried out at the government level due to obstacles on the part of the Jordanian Royal Air Force, and noted that the purchased equipment was at the service of King Husayn of Jordan, and so it had only a few hours of flight time and was not "scrap metal."

Referring to the characteristics of the helicopters, the official acknowledged that Guatemala was aware that they were not appropriate for transportation in jungle areas, but stressed that so far they have met the country's needs and are in operation.

Belize's Right to Self-Determination Recognized

PA1508141791 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1741 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government today recognized the Belizean right to self-determination, making a 180-degree turn in its policy with regard to the former British colony, the territory of which it has claimed.

In a brief official communique the government of President Jorge Serrano stated that the Guatemalan people recognize Belizean self-determination because it wants "to live in peace and harmony" and to establish ties of friendship and cooperation with the Caribbean nations.

"In accordance with the spirit of the Guatemalan Constitution and international law, it (the government) recognizes the Belizean people's right to self-determination," the communique stated.

Nevertheless, the Serrano government has announced that it will continue the negotiations to resolve the territorial dispute it has maintained with the former British colony for more than 150 years.

Guatemala had refused to recognize the independence that Great Britain granted to its Central American colony in September 1981.

Guatemalan Government spokesman Gonzalo Asturias explained to ACAN-EFE that the decision to recognize Belizean self-determination means "a total change" on the issue of Belize, which is recognized as an independent state by the United Nations and the OAS.

According to the communique, the Guatemalan Government will exhaust every civilized legal means to definitely resolve the territorial dispute with Belize.

Asturias said that informal talks are currently being held between Belize and Guatemala, with a British observer, in Miami to find a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

According to the Guatemalan Constitution, any decision by the Serrano administration on Belize will have to be submitted to a referendum.

Belize is the only English-speaking country in Central America. It is located along the Caribbean coast and has a population of less than 200,000 people and an area of 23,000 square km. It is bordered on the north by Mexico and on the west and south by Guatemala.

Panama

Arias Urges Awareness on Canal Administration

PA1608022291 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
15 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Ricardo Arias Calderon believes that the government has yet to "fully and seriously" begin to make Panamanians aware of the administration of the canal when it is turned over to Panama at the end of this decade.

Arias Calderon expressed this opinion after a three-hour meeting between the PDC leadership and Panama Canal Administrator Gilberto Guardia Fabrega at the canal's Miraflores Locks.

"That is why we issued a call to the executive branch to invite the country's main political and social forces," Arias Calderon said, explaining that he seeks to encourage cooperation among all these forces to increase awareness about this task.

He insisted that it has been the PDC that has taken the initiative to propose to Panamanians "that we should begin to prepare to manage the canal under the sign of national unity, because we only have eight and a half years to do so."

The meeting with the canal administrator was held specifically to brief the entire PDC leadership on the waterway, something which, Arias Calderon said, shows the importance the PDC gives to Panama's preparation for taking over the canal's administration.

Arias Calderon said his attention was drawn to the idea expressed by Administrator Guardia about making Panamanians aware of the canal's future. Arias Calderon said he shares Guardia's view.

This means, Arias Calderon stressed, that the decisions made regarding the canal's future must remain detached from "politicking" and individual or party interests.

According to Arias Calderon, Guardia told the Christian Democrats about the need to establish a Panamanian canal administration that is independent and that has financial flexibility, a proposal that must be considered "very seriously."

Arias Calderon said they discussed the characteristics of the institution that will manage the canal when it is turned over to Panama. They also indicated that the transition from the current Canal Commission to a future Panamanian canal agency should take place without trauma, using the services of all the Panamanian canal workers who have vast professional and technical experience.

"It is better late than never," the PDC leader replied when asked whether it is not already too late to begin to create this awareness among the people.

Nevertheless, he stressed that he is convinced that there is still time "if we start doing so right now under the sign of national unity, as long as we respect our differences in other fields."

He said that the Christian Democrats are willing, and they hope others are also willing, to work jointly with regard to the topic of the canal.

Endara Comments on Remarks

PA1608022391 Panama City Circuito RPC
Television in Spanish 2352 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] President Guillermo Endara responded to remarks made 14 August to RPC and LA PRENSA by Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon on the Panama Canal. In his remarks, Arias Calderon stated the government is not creating an awareness of the importance of the Panama Canal. Here are President Endara's remarks.

[Begin recording] I was unpleasantly surprised to learn that the patriotic spirit of Arias Calderon is bereft of serious and objective substance. I read his remarks in the newspapers, where he wants to turn the Panama Canal topic into a political topic. He wants to take advantage of the topic and put me at a disadvantage. Sincerely, Arias Calderon's patriotism and seriousness leave much to be desired. He is as frivolous as a teenage girl. Sincerely speaking, I will not meet with Dr. Arias Calderon until he overcomes this desire to turn the Panama Canal into a political topic. He wants to become the great initiator of this topic. This is not a topic for anyone to take the initiative and give the impression he alone is interested in it. Neither is this a topic over which to throw dirt at whoever does not agree with him.

I will merely refer him to the ad hoc commission I created to study all matters relating to the Panama Canal and reverted areas. I appointed this commission and have been working with it since long before he began to think about this topic. I withdraw my invitation to meet with him, but I will ask the abovementioned commission to visit him to see if he is serious about this topic. [end recording]

This is how Dr. Arias Calderon reacted in a telephone interview.

[Begin recording in progress] . . . the patriotism of people with whom I disagree; nor do I resort to personal insults against them. I regret the president does not even respect the dignity of his own post.

On the matter of the Panama Canal, I merely pointed to two facts that are public knowledge. First, the government has yet to begin the task of making Panamanians aware concerning the future administration of the canal. Second, the PDC has proposed that we undertake this task under the banner of national unity. I have nothing further to say on the president's remarks. [end recording]

Antiriot Police Disperse University Students

PA1508162691 Panama City *CRITICA LIBRE*
in Spanish 15 Aug 91 pp 51, 64

[Article by Marcelino Rodriguez B.]

[Text] University students yesterday blocked Via Bolivar (Transisthmian Highway) for two hours and carried signs expressing their solidarity with students and workers who are on hunger strikes.

Antiriot policemen fired tear gas to disperse the students who identified themselves as members of FER-29 [Revolutionary Students Front] and the Union of University and Secondary School Students [Union de Estudiantes Universitarios y Secundarios—UNEUS].

Members of these student organizations said that their action was to protest against the Endara administration for adopting unpopular measures, such as dismissing unionists and persecuting members of the labor movement.

UNEUS leader Rodolfo Navarro said that IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] workers, who are still chained at the Papal Nuncio, and students of the Instituto Nacional have demonstrated that they are true leaders and must be heard. He added that the authorities must be receptive to the just struggle of these workers and students in favor of the poor majority of this country.

The demonstrators were not supported by other students, but managed to block the important highway, creating a two-hour traffic jam.

The police operation against no more than 30 students lasted about 15 minutes. They were forced to retreat to the university campus and traffic was reestablished under the guard of antiriot policemen who remained near the University of Panama until 1800.

Argentina

Menem Meets Lacalle, Signs Science Pact

PY1508150691 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1222 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Aug (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle last night attended a dinner given at the Alvear Palace Hotel to celebrate the signing of an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation by Argentina and Uruguay with the Weismann Institute of Israel.

The Uruguayan president arrived in the country on a 24-hour visit. Today, he will visit the Menotti Pescarmona Institute for Satellite Research on the southern coast area.

Lacalle is scheduled to return to Montevideo today at 1900.

Menem on Questioning of Narcotics Investigation

PY1508182891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1308 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Aug (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has stated that he will "categorically" reject any possible amendment to the presidential system provided that the Constitution is changed. He said: "It is a good thing if they want to amend it; if they do not, bad luck. I will not make a great to-do."

In response to a question he said that he has "an excessive interest in the reform." On reaffirming his opposition to a possible amendment of the presidential system, he said that "this is a system prevailing in the world. It cannot be replaced by another system which has failed to succeed, like the parliamentary system," which includes a prime minister.

Menem also denied being bothered by Federal Judge Miguel Pons' questioning of the investigation being conducted into the narcodollar laundering case. He said, however, that the procedure "was not correct," because the questions should have been delivered to him in a sealed envelope to prevent them from being made public before he replied to them.

Regarding the possible release of former intelligence agent Raul Guglielminetti, he said that "it is up to the judicial branch to make decisions in this regard." No power should interfere in the decisions of another power. They can coexist in harmony and promote dialogue, but any interference is unacceptable.

He said that he will not request the impeachment of the judge who ordered Guglielminetti's release. After noting that the judge's decision may be appealed, he added that what he told the press yesterday was that "if the judge has gone beyond the law, or if he has violated the existing law, then he could be impeached."

Menem made these statements at the Jorge Newbery Airport this morning, shortly before departing for

Pehuajo, where he and Education Minister Antonio Salonia will dedicate the National Technical Education School No. 1.

Chamber of Deputies Approves Common Market

PY1508142691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1208 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Aug (TELAM)—The Chamber of Deputies early this morning approved the treaty for the creation of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur). Therefore, Argentina will be part of this regional organization for integration and economic and commercial cooperation with Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil.

The debate on the treaty in the Chamber of Deputies was attended by Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, who listened to the support for the treaty expressed by legislators of the Justicialist Party, the Radical Civic Union, the liberal sectors, and other minority groups, who emphasized the importance of trade between the Latin American countries, and the benefits of the Mercosur.

The protocols of the agreement were signed late last March in Asuncion by Presidents Carlos Menem of Argentina, Fernando Collor de Mello of Brazil, Luis Alberto Lacalle of Uruguay, and Andres Rodriguez of Paraguay, who started the coordination of the "great socioeconomic objectives with the goals of regional integration."

Regarding the implementation of the Mercosur treaty, Guido di Tella said that "we will have more power" which "will be used for greater integration." [passage omitted]

Government To 'Defuse' Contract for ID Cards

PY1508211291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 15 Aug 91 p 11

[Text] The Government announced yesterday that it will "defuse" the contract with a French company to provide DNI, national identity documents, "because such a contract would bring legal and diplomatic problems." He made it clear that "this is a political decision."

Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano had commented during the Tuesday night television programme of Bernardo Neustadt that "we're planning to scrap the scheme for the time being, and if we later decide to go on with the plan to change the identity card system, we'll call an international tender."

Yesterday Manzano sent a note to Federal Administrative Investigations Bureau chief Jorge Pinzon, who had demanded information on the case, stating that "the government is studying a way to have this (contract cancelled) at the least possible expense to the state."

Manzano's predecessor Julio Mera Figueroa had been bitterly criticized for signing a direct contract with the French company Sofremi for the provision of ID documents at a

very high cost in international terms. Political analysts believe that the French contract was one of the main factors behind Mera Figueroa's resignation last week.

Manzano contended that the contract "is flawless from a technical and administrative point of view, but politically it would not be convenient to go on with it before reaching certain consensus level."

The new minister accepted the possibility of "legal problems" stemming from reneging on the Sofremi contract, including a demand of economic compensation from the company and a formal protest from France, but he said these problems will be dealt with in due time by the legal department at his ministry and by the Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, Entre Rios Governor Jorge Busti yesterday turned down the post of Interior Undersecretary, an offer Manzano had made him on Tuesday. However, Busti pointed out that "it is an honour: having been proposed for the post.

Sources close to Busti commented that the governor was planning to run for mayor of his home town Concordia—which he governed from 1983 to 1987—after his leaves his post in December.

Chile

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Cuban Delegation

FL1508233491 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1950 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Chilean Deputy Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas has met with a Cuban delegation at the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Chile to formalize the renewal of official bilateral relations. After the Chilean deputy foreign minister welcomed the Cuban delegation, the parties discussed the establishment of consulates in the two countries, which are expected to open in the next few months.

Last month, the Chilean and Cuban Governments agreed to reestablish commercial and consular relations. They had been suspended together with diplomatic services since September 1973 after President Salvador Allende was overthrown.

Luis Delfin Perez Osorio, deputy director of the Cuban Foreign Ministry's Latin American and Caribbean Directorate; and Francisco Coromina Miranda, director of the Economics Directorate, compose the Cuban delegation.

Nationalists Want Pinochet To Run for President

PY1608030091 Santiago Television Nacional
de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] A group of nationalist leaders have said that General Augusto Pinochet should run as a candidate in the next presidential elections. This request is included in a public statement read by (Sergio Rezzio Nozetti), president of the Independent Nationalist Force of Chile [Fuerza Nacionalista Independiente de Chile].

* PS Vice President Discusses Party, Policies

9ISM0434A Santiago LA NACION in Spanish
14 Jul 91 pp 6-7

[Interview with Ricardo Nunez, Vice President of the Socialist Party, by Monica Gonzalez; place, date not given]

[Text] With his measured speech, bushy moustache, and the appearance of something between a grade school teacher and a trade union leader, this senator does not plan to hide the mark left on him by his father, founder of the Confederation of Copper Workers and a member of the National Falange, and by his 36 years in the Socialist Party (PS). During the 1960s he was a member of that PS Central Committee that advocated seizing power. He endured the events of 11 September at the Technical University, where he was general secretary. He was tortured at the National Stadium and imprisoned in the Penitentiary. Afterwards, this sociologist and professor of history and geography had to live in exile. He also led a secret life under the name of "Pedro Jimenez."

He returned to Chile in 1980, and his name became the trademark of moderate socialists. He was declared the "preacher" [canuto] of free elections, and he was in the vanguard of those defending the plebiscite as a method of decisionmaking. His greatest frustration is that he was unable to return to the University of Chile as professor of history and geography. But that also is something he states with a serenity that is impressive. "The thing is, I am very content with myself, with my ideas, my plans, and my doubts," he comments. Today, at 51, the senator for the Third Region is preparing to become the top leader of the Socialist Party, under a rotation agreement reached with the current leader, Jorge Arrate.

[Gonzalez] Jorge Arrate was supposed to turn over the reins of the PS to you next November. Will the date be moved up?

[Nunez] That would not be appropriate, because the current leadership has proven to be very serious and responsible.

[Gonzalez] At any rate, you will assume the leadership of the PS this year, and you will compete with the Christian Democrats (DC) for power. Do you welcome the challenge?

[Nunez] It is undoubtedly a great challenge, but as far as power is concerned, I do not want to get into a long and tedious discussion like the one the parties of the left had before. A party that receives more votes than the others is not necessarily the most powerful one.

[Gonzalez] Which one is the most powerful?

[Nunez] The one capable of building society, of influencing all of the interstices of a social body, of orienting the country's economic, cultural, political, and spiritual life, and that is not necessarily done with votes.

[Gonzalez] Is that not an antidemocratic assertion?

[Nunez] No, it is not. We are going to receive more votes than the Socialists have ever gotten. Make no mistake about it: For 56 years, the Chilean Socialists received around 13.8 percent of the vote, and today we are going to raise ourselves up above 20 percent with the Party for Democracy (PPD), which is undeniably a force of progress and social change very similar to our own. This represents a great success.

[Gonzalez] And how is influence obtained?

[Nunez] With that share of the vote we want more than a role in the institutions of government; we want mayors, city council members, deputies, senators, and to the extent possible, quite a few ministers. And we want to run a candidate for president of the republic next term. That 20 percent has to be qualitatively important so that there is no part of the country where the influence of our ideas about change is not felt.

[Gonzalez] What is the difference between taking on the challenges and tasks of this government, and those of the Popular Unity (UP) government?

[Nunez] There are several differences. In the first place, the historical program. Whereas in the UP all of us, more or less, had an absolute vision of social change, today we know that the gradual approach or the process of constant growth of the forces for change is a daily exigency.

The total, absolute utopia, that metaphysical vision of paradise that we wanted to attain, no longer exists today. It is a paradise that we are building today, and not for tomorrow.

[Gonzalez] Have you ever experienced paradise?

[Nunez] Yes. In the struggle against the dictatorship, the moment we triumphed and we were able to show the country that we were in the majority. That was a historic moment for this country.

Rebuilding the Left

[Gonzalez] You said, "There is no political space, as Erich Schnake would like, for a center-left PS. There is space for a PS of the left that can reach an understanding with the center." What is taking shape now, a center-left PS or a left PS?

[Nunez] We are rebuilding the left into a force that expresses the will of all of the most substantive sectors that back it from the political and cultural, doctrinal and social point of view, from the perspective of being a force for change.

[Gonzalez] In the past, the left was a force very closely tied to political and doctrinaire models and men. What about today?

[Nunez] We are coming back from messianism. I think there is no one man in the world left, there are no more Fidel Castros or Lenins, and I think it is not likely that another Salvador Allende will appear in our country. We have come

back from that vision in which one man or one party embodied the ideas of change, dignity, and liberty.

[Gonzalez] Where does one get that intangible force that is called spirit [mistical]?

[Nunez] We lack spirit. Sometimes I regard it as a challenge, other times as a fact of life that we must contend with because of the extreme pragmatism that has characterized us. It is a challenge to make one's political and intellectual life a time of constant creativity between spirit and pragmatism. I do not want to cease being a pragmatic man, capable of dealing with the real world, but neither do I want to cloak myself in abstract and generic concepts. I want to imbue these ideas with a degree of spirit that helps me look to the future with more enthusiasm. How the devil do we do it? We do not have the spirit of the 1960s!

[Gonzalez] Do you sometimes feel like an old loser?

[Nunez] No, I feel like an old success.

[Gonzalez] Is there not a kind of conformism, of accommodation to whatever is there?

[Nunez] I think exactly the opposite is true. For example, I have the impression that the great obstacle facing "constructed" socialism was the idea that it did not need improvement. The virtue of the democracy we are building is that all of us, even sectors of the right, have the feeling that it is not democracy that we aspire to. I am certain that with the municipal election not only will we have legitimately installed mayors, but the floodgates will open to greater creativity, more participation by the people.

[Gonzalez] Do you think people feel they are contributing to change?

[Nunez] They do not feel that. People have the impression that this country is being built by the well-paid politicians, that a certain aristocracy of power is being established. The Socialists' challenge is to show that we are in the democracy of power.

Anger and Rationality

[Gonzalez] When have you felt the most uncomfortable, or when have you felt that your very socialist essence has been most violated in Congress?

[Nunez] Several times. Once I tried to express in just a few lines what the 17 years of dictatorship had meant to us. When I saw the insolent faces of the rightist and designated senators—one of them even fell asleep as I spoke—I felt that I was incapable of expressing what we really experienced, what it meant for us to be in jail, in exile, to have our friends and comrades disappear....

[Gonzalez] Did you feel anger or defeat?

[Nunez] I felt anger and irritation with myself. Anger because I realized that we were building a democracy in which a tremendous cloak of insensitivity has been woven.

[Gonzalez] You said that you see the right as being "completely incapable of change, insensitive, unable to understand the moral and human dimensions of what lies behind the 17 years."

[Nunez] I still think that. It is true that with my daily interaction with the leaders of the right, even with Jaime Guzman, who the last time I talked to him no longer had that insolent look on his face, I feel that they, too, were somehow affected by those 17 years. Even if they still support the dictatorship ideologically, from a spiritual point of view I get the impression that those faces are no longer as insolent as they were.

[Gonzalez] Has there been a time when you have had difficulty maintaining your composure in the Senate?

[Nunez] No. We operate there on the basis of the rationality that the institution imposes. In the Senate we are people with tremendous rationality; we constantly have in mind the need to "legislate," which means that the emotional factor is relegated to a much lower plane.

Military Budget

[Gonzalez] The PPD announced that it will propose a \$170 million reduction in the defense budget. What will the PS do?

[Nunez] From our point of view, the issue is: What amount of military spending is appropriate for national defense?

[Gonzalez] Do the conditions exist for holding such a discussion in Congress?

[Nunez] Yes, on the basis of the new contributions of technology linked to military activity, or the greater professionalization of our armed forces, which entails a gradual reduction of military spending without reducing our defense capability. We Socialists intend to promote such a reduction.

[Gonzalez] Will you do so this year?

[Nunez] This year the matter will have to be discussed more thoroughly, in an incomplete way, since we have not even discussed with the armed forces, from the civilian and congressional perspective, the need for them to make adjustments to improve their technical-scientific agility so that they can defend the country efficiently, while at the same time freeing up resources for other sectors that need them urgently.

[Gonzalez] What will happen to the \$4 million intended to pay the salaries of the 1,100 men who belonged to the National Information Center (CNI) and were incorporated into the DINE?

[Nunez] We think it is inappropriate that the government has done so little to take care of this matter. That is why we are going to vote against it.

Municipal Elections

[Gonzalez] You are a member of the municipal reform negotiating commission. Will there finally be elections?

[Nunez] There is still some risk that they will not take place. The threat is from a sector of the right that fears another electoral defeat.

[Gonzalez] Does the Coalition [Concertacion] fear a lower percentage of votes?

[Nunez] No. The Coalition will not only maintain its share of the vote, but will actually increase it.

[Gonzalez] The government plan calls for direct election of mayors. The DC agreed to promote a system of indirect elections. What will the PS do?

[Nunez] For more than a year now, we have been emphasizing the need to choose mayors through direct elections. It is necessary for the mayors' names to be well known; they should not be the product of backroom deals. However, given that our fundamental objective is to have elections and that the Coalition did not unanimously agree on this, and understanding that our objective of preserving the Coalition through pacts by omission for the direct election of mayors was ignored, perhaps as a result of that pragmatism we were talking about, we are willing to accept the indirect election of mayors as well as an even number of council seats.

[Gonzalez] Will you also accept the binomial electoral system?

[Nunez] The electoral system is not binomial. The even number does not mean it is binomial. It is only binomial when two people are elected. The closer we get to the number two, the more it looks binomial. With six council members it is a disguised binomial system. We would accept six council seats for small communities, but we would like 12 for the large communities.

[Gonzalez] What is the significance of Enrique Krauss becoming the head of the government group negotiating the municipal reform?

[Nunez] It is a very positive development. Enrique Krauss has proven to be responsive, flexible, and capable of understanding the demands of the regions, of the opposition, and our own demands. He has put together a good team and has established good relations—which did not exist before—with all the sectors that will actually make the decision on the reform. He represents backing and support.

[Gonzalez] Would you not be very glad to see him leave to accept the presidency of the DC?

[Nunez] If he goes to the party, I will certainly have a good relationship with him as president of my party.

Alliance with DC

[Gonzalez] Do you consider the union between the PS and the DC an electoral pact, a temporary pact, or, as Enrique Krauss said, a "historic and future political pact"?

[Nunez] With all the challenges, difficulties, problems, and obstacles involved in developing an alliance with the DC from the point of view taken by Krauss, I agree with him.

[Gonzalez] What are the differences between this pact with the DC for this government and the pact with the Communists for the government of Salvador Allende?

[Nunez] We shared a cultural and political world with the Communists. We came from the same social sectors and we shared relatively similar ideological visions. Under the UP government, both parties claimed to be Marxist-Leninist. Moreover, the two of us tried to bring about the "Chilean revolution"; that process of structural change of a revolutionary nature was supposed to end up with our becoming a single great party.

[Gonzalez] And the alliance with the DC today?

[Nunez] Neither we nor the Christian Democrats have any intention of joining together in a single party. We are very different in terms of our political background, our cultural origins, and our most fundamental doctrinal definitions. We are two parties that are in a position to coexist with our differences.

Colombia

U.S. Embassy Plane Overflow Envigado Jail

PA1508232091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2118 GMT
15 Aug 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 15 Aug (EFE)—Radio Network Caracol reported today that a "212 fighter plane" belonging to the U.S. Embassy in Colombia, and not a plane from the Colombian carrier Avianca, was the aircraft that was fired upon by the guards at the Envigado jail where drug kingpin Pablo Escobar is being held.

According to Caracol, on 23 July the "212 fighter plane" overflowed without permission the restricted airspace over Envigado, northwest of Colombia, between 1700 and 1800 (2200 and 2300 GMT).

Caracol reported on 12 August that the guards responsible for the security at the jail—members of the Colombian Army—fired upon a plane that overflowed the jail in a vertical fashion.

The airspace around the Envigado jail is restricted to all kinds of aircraft to avoid a possible escape attempt by Escobar, who turned himself into justice authorities on 19 June, or an attack against Escobar or any of the 17 members of the Medellin Cartel who are being held in Envigado.

Caracol reported that the U.S. aircraft, which was on a routine flight between the Palenquero Military Base

(center of the country) and Howard Base in Panama, had indeed requested permission to land at the "Olaya Herrera" airport in Medellin, near Envigado.

Caracol continued, however, that the pilot "aborted the landing when he was flying at a low altitude and decided to take an alternate route that forced him to enter the restricted airspace."

According to the report, when the plane entered the restricted airspace, a soldier opened fire on the plane from a booth located on one end of the football field at the maximum security jail in Envigado, reportedly "hitting one of its engines."

A few minutes later, the "212 fighter plane" landed at the "Olaya Herrera" airport with a damaged engine, and it reportedly stayed there for eight days until a new engine was sent from Panama.

Caracol further stated that this plane is used periodically by the U.S. Embassy for the rotation of the personnel who work at the radars of the Palenquero Base.

This incident was kept secret and the Attorney General's Office was only requested to find out who had opened fire on the plane.

Intelligence Services Confiscate Arms Cache

PA1608035191 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Report by Liliana Vigoya]

[Text] Following recent searches in Medellin, Cali, Palmira, and Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombian intelligence services, with the help of Interpol [International Criminal Police Organization] in the United States and Europe, uncovered an international gunrunning operation. The confiscated weapons were intended for narcoterrorism, organized crime, and subversion. The guns entered the country by sea from Asia, the United States, and Europe with transshipment in Central America. The guns were camouflaged inside containers that were legally imported. As an alternate route, airplanes were used exclusively to transport the guns into Colombian territory. Once the weapons entered Colombia, they were transported by land. The confiscated weapons are expensive, very sophisticated, and short and long range. The weapons are U.S., Austrian, and German, and have been used in the Persian Gulf, Vietnam, and in World War II.

The arsenal comprises antiaircraft missiles, rockets, torpedoes, rifles, submachineguns, clips, grenades, and plenty of ammunition. The searches were made of elegant residential homes and farms where the weapons were concealed in modern hideouts. The Dijin [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations] reported that U.S. citizen Christopher De Mello, who recently served time in a U.S. prison for gunrunning, is one of the network's contacts. The report also states that the international organization that purchases the weapons has key links to clandestine trade.

[Begin recording] [Dijin Chief Colonel Luis Enrique Montenegro] These weapons were intended for use in terrorist attacks in capital cities such as Medellin, Cali, and Bogota. We have not been able to detect the targets, but we believe they were to be public force officials who at one time or another have successfully dealt a blow against Colombian subversion and terrorism.

[Reporter] Such as [DAS Director] General [Miguel Alfredo] Maza, for example?

[Montenegro] He was one of the targets. [end recording]

The international investigation will continue until it can be determined who bought the weapons and where they were purchased.

Officials Announce War Tax, Final Rebel Talks

PA1508145991 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Finance and Public Credit Minister Rudolf Hommes today announced more taxes for next year. Government Minister Humberto de la Calle said that the upcoming meeting with the rebels in Caracas will be the final meeting to reach a peace agreement with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board. Defense Minister General Oscar Botero said that the incident that took place today involving two Venezuelan war airplanes was an accident. The ministers made all these announcements and more during a mini-summit of ministers held at the Narino Palace.

According to the government, Colombians will continue to pay the costs of the guerrilla attacks. Starting next year, there will be a 2 percent increase in the energy fee for all sectors, Hommes announced, as part of a second war tax to reinforce security at 210 critical sites. As always, the necessary 22.2 billion pesos will come out of the taxpayers' pockets.

[Begin Hommes recording] I believe this will be a surcharge that must equally affect the people. I expect there will be a 2 percent fare increase for everyone, which will be in effect next year. [end recording]

Energy plan number two is also to be financed with 1.15 billion pesos from a toll surcharge, 7.5 billion pesos to be provided by Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise], and 11 billion pesos that will come from a surcharge on energy fees. The government will allocate its own resources and will impose a 10 percent increase on Civil Aeronautics Office fees to improve security at airports where there have been attacks.

To make matters worse, the government wants to extend the war tax by submitting a bill to the Congress to expand the tax from one to three years.

[Begin Hommes recording] We are responsible for these expenditures. The government has the obligation to defend the Colombian people. That is what we are doing

and that is why we must pay. I believe the country should really be focused on the guerrillas. [end recording]

Government Minister Humberto de la Calle announced that the government will go to Caracas in one major, final effort of generosity.

[Begin recording] [De la Calle] Our moderate optimism of a few months ago has now become a distant hope. The government, however, insists on adopting a generous stance to give dialogue a new opportunity.

[Botero] The answer is now in the hands of those gangs of criminals. Also, we can see all the people reject what they are doing. [end recording]

On the matter involving a Venezuelan airplane that dropped several bombs in Arauca, Gen. Botero said:

[Being Botero recording] Venezuelan Air Force airplanes on a training mission had a emergency. Before landing, several bombs were either dropped or became detached. The bombs fell into the Arauca River and exploded. As a result, one Colombian was slightly injured. [end recording]

Reports on Government-Rebel Clashes 4-13 Aug

PA1508161391

[Editorial Report] Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish on 4 August on pages 1 and 3 carries a 720-word item on clashes with guerrillas and other guerrilla activities. The first report indicates that government infantry battalion troops clashed with 23d Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) members in Pauna, Boyaca, and that two rebels were killed. Furthermore, "the Army also reported that members of the mobile brigade clashed with FARC members in Uribe Municipality in Meta Department and were able to confiscate war materiel and uniforms." The item adds that 40 soldiers managed to foil a Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB) attack on Argelia, a community that borders Cauca and Huila Departments. The item also reports that "alleged National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas kidnapped Mazda dealer Sergio Acevedo Penagos in Santander on 3 August," that "Alfonso Ruiz, a J.J. Rocha Company engineer, was abducted by CNGSB subversives in Arauca Department," and that "citizen Rafael Quintero was also kidnapped by alleged guerrillas in Ocana, in northern Santander."

Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 2 in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 7 August carries a one-minute report which states that "members of the 47th FARC Front took over the Amalfi community in the northeastern area of Antioquia early this morning. The rebels clashed violently with 12 policemen who guarded the community. The takeover resulted in two dead, three wounded, and severe economic losses."

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 9 August on page 14a carries a 120-word report on the "death of a policeman and a guerrilla member during clashes in a Barranquilla

neighborhood on 8 August, when four subversives attempted to place a bomb at the Immediate Attention Center on 30th Street."

Paris AFP in Spanish at 0345 GMT on 11 August reports that "15 subversives, six soldiers, and two policemen were killed and eight public force members and two rebels were wounded" during clashes that took place in an area between Huila and Caqueta Departments. The report continues, indicating that "five members of the 13th FARC Front, a second lieutenant, a noncommissioned officer, and two soldiers were killed during violent clashes that still continue in the vicinity of Bruselas in Huila Department." It adds that "the Cacique Coyara Battalion dismantled the main camp of the 18th FARC Front in Cordoba Department and destroyed a radio repeater station and the rebel's urban support network."

EL TIEMPO on 11 August on page 12a carries a 550-word report stating that the result of a military operation carried out by 11th Brigade Army troops against CNGSB rebels in the Cerro Murrucucu (Cordoba) area has "left one rebel dead, 12 rebels captured, two camps dismantled, and a great amount of food and war materiel confiscated."

EL TIEMPO on 12 August on page 8d carries a 400-word report stating that 9th Brigade soldiers have accelerated their pursuit of the 32d FARC Front rebels who murdered 14 members of the Armed Forces in Putumayo on 10 August. Colonel Miranda Jorge Miranda Carpio confirmed that three rebels had been killed and that "an officer, seven soldiers, and six policemen had been killed in clashes in Pitalito, Guadalupe, Acevedo, and Balsillas in Huila and Caqueta Departments." The report adds that "military spokesmen reported on 11 August that the rebels had sabotaged the pipeline along the San Antonio path in La Hormiga Municipality" and that "the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise was forced to suspend the pumping of crude oil because of it." The report continues stating that "another section of the pipeline had been sabotaged on 8 August in the vicinity of Orito, the main oil production center in the southern part of the country."

Invasion Television Cadena 1 at 0000 GMT on 13 August reports that "this weekend, different guerrilla fronts have launched a terrorist offensive, mainly, in cities." It adds that five bombs exploded in different Medellin banks and left many thousands of pesos in losses, but no victims, and that urban FARC groups had claimed responsibility for these actions. The report continues, stating that "this morning Mayor Guillermo Rodriguez, the second commander of the 21st Airborne battalion, was murdered in Granada."

Ecuador

Fabian Alarcon Elected New Congress President

PA1408231291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0406 GMT
14 Aug 91

[Text] Quito, 13 Aug (EFE)—Fabian Alarcon, Alfariista Radical Front deputy, was elected new president of the Ecuadoran Congress today.

Alarcon, who is 44 and a lawyer, obtained 28 votes out of 53 valid votes in the sixth internal election held since 10 August.

The 1979 Constitution establishes that the Congress must open a new period of sessions every year, on 10 August, with the election of its president. Also, the president of the Republic must present his report to the nation at this time.

* More Reaction to Pending Labor Reforms Noted

* Church Issues Statement

91SM0435A Quito HOY in Spanish 15 Jul 91 p 5A

[Text] Monsignor Antonio Gonzalez, the president of the Episcopal Conference, and Monsignor Vicente Cisneros, the secretary general, have sent a letter to the president of the National Congress containing a pronouncement inspired by the church's social doctrine. In it they call for appropriate, up-to-date labor legislation so that social strife can be avoided and social peace can be consolidated in Ecuador, since social peace "is indispensable for the nation's economic and social growth."

Coping With Integration

In an eight-point document the Episcopal Conference indicates that labor legislation needs to be updated because the Labor Code, it says, was enacted many years ago and because Ecuador has to cope with the challenges of Andean integration and the reduction of tariffs on regional trade within a new legal framework that will govern relations between labor and management.

The Episcopate's pronouncement is also a response to the call for the church's involvement from leaders of national union federations, in light of the serious problems currently besetting the workers, who are worried about massive layoffs, the failure to comply with collective-bargaining agreements, and the shutdown of a plant owned by the company La Internacional, which is going to boost unemployment.

The church document says that legal reforms of the Labor Code must in no way impair the rights that the workers have acquired under the previous Labor Code.

It emphasizes that laws must safeguard the personal dignity of the workers and their right to work, as a way to keep themselves and their families alive, in a setting in which their health and physical integrity are safe. It notes that labor legislation must guarantee job security for the workers and, at the same time, must encourage the workers to become competent and responsible in their jobs and to make a positive contribution to the progress of their company for the good of the entire society.

Guaranteed Safety Net

It asserts that labor laws must also guarantee a safety net for all workers: health, disability, occupational-accident,

unemployment insurances, etc. The safety net is available to just a minority of the population in Ecuador, the Church says.

The bishops' pronouncement says that the class struggle and the use of violence do not solve social problems. "Rather, they make them worse and could lead to the closure of companies, to the serious detriment of the country's economic situation...."

* Mahuad Cites 'Errors'

91SM0435B Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish
15 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] Quito—The president of the Popular Democracy Party (DP), Jamil Mahuad, said that he agreed with the Catholic Church's pronouncement on the labor reform that is before the National Congress.

Valid Tool

Mahuad indicated that the Catholic Church's pronouncement, besides being timely and encouraging, has a profoundly humanistic substance and views labor as a source of wealth.

If work is the highest value in any society, he noted, labor relations ought to lend dignity to the worker by preventing the exploitation of some and the abuse of others.

As for the labor reform, he asserted that he is convinced that integration and the mechanisms for it are a valid tool for the development of our society, a tool that we cannot and must not forgo. Integration cannot, however, become a heavy burden on the workers, he reiterated.

In this context, he noted, "I think that labor flexibility is necessary, but it cannot and must not harm job security or deprive the workers of certain rights that represent social achievements throughout our history."

Mahuad stated that labor reform is indispensable to the country as such and he set forth some of his views on it.

Several Errors

"I think," he added, "that one of the mistakes in the bill submitted by the administration is that it makes precarious labor relations more widespread. We must not forget that job security is the foundation of several worker rights. The right to work goes hand in hand with the right to a secure job in a society that aspires to be equitable and just."

The overprotection that a small group of workers in the public sector enjoys under collective-bargaining contracts and special laws that harm the government and the majority of workers must be regulated with a sense of fairness.

Collective bargaining must be strengthened in a new approach to labor relations. Mahuad indicated, however, that our country's biggest problem is unemployment and underemployment.

As for strikes, he asserted that this is a right that the workers cannot renounce. However, in view of certain excesses in solidarity strikes and the shutting down of vital public services, regulations that can insure the continuous provision of such services are indispensable.

Obviously, he added, the common interest of society comes before private interests.

The Christian Democrat leader indicated in conclusion that his party is making a positive contribution, through several proposals, to the approval of the labor reform, without lapsing into any sort of extremism, neither the extremism of those who want to do away with labor rights nor the extremism of those who, taking a conservative approach, seek to leave certain rigidities of the system intact.

* Bush Initiative's 'Meager' Progress Viewed

91SM0436A Quito HOY in Spanish 22 Jul 91 p 1A

[Editorial by HOY staff: "Awaiting Initiatives"]

[Text] A new cycle of meetings on the Initiative for the Americas proposed by President George Bush is beginning in Washington in the presence of ministers of foreign affairs and economic leaders.

The Bush initiative caused a considerable stir when it was announced, based on the tripod of an increase in trade, a reduction in foreign debt, and greater investments. Nevertheless, the progress achieved is still meager, particularly in terms of the slight progress made on programs for reaching agreement on the foreign debt.

The new policy of the United States toward Latin America seemed to mean that developments in Eastern Europe have not eliminated the interest of this super power in trade with Latin America. The initiative turns over to the private sector, through trade and investment, the possibilities of achieving positive results.

The fact is that many of the economies of the region—including that of Ecuador—are immobilized by debt. The burden of interest payments is impossible to bear as long as no solution is in sight on the subject of capital. About 30 percent of Ecuador's payments on its foreign debt is on the interest accrued.

Latin America is regarded by foreign investors as a broken continent, without any ability to pay. No one in the industrialized countries remembers, and probably no one cares, that the conditions and size of the debt have been changed by political decisions made outside of the region.

In view of the facts the first thing to be done under the Initiative for the Americas will be to take a big leap forward by reducing and reprogramming the foreign debt.

*** 'Controversial' Priest Discusses Indian Groups**

91SM0436B Quito HOY in Spanish 21 Jul 91 p 3A

[Interview with Catholic priest Pedro Torres of Tixan parish in Chimborazo Province by unidentified reporter "near" Tixan; date not given; first four paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] Father Pedro Torres has said: "No new Native American uprising is being prepared."

Father Pedro Torres, who is closely linked to Native American communities, has become a controversial figure in the Province of Chimborazo.

When Minister of Social Welfare Raul Baca went out to the Province of Chimborazo to inaugurate a number of community centers, Father Torres appeared. He has been constantly attacked by ranch owners, who have accused him of promoting illegal occupations of land. However, he has also become the leader of the Native American communities, who have even compared him with Monsignor Leonidas Proano.

He is their leader in everything. During the ceremonies at which Minister Baca Carbo turned over community centers this Colombian priest arranged everything, from the preparation of the food to the programs of band music. HOY interviewed him in a community near Tixan, where he is the parish priest.

[HOY] What do you think of the native American movement in Chimborazo since the uprising a little more than one year ago?

[Torres] I think that there have been two aspects which have been very important: the consolidation of local organizations at the community level and in federations at the secondary level. These two kinds of organizations are becoming more compact every day, and they are stronger than before the uprising.

[HOY] Do the conditions still exist which caused the Native American uprising to break out?

[Torres] The conditions still exist. In addition to that it is important to emphasize the political recognition of the existence and importance of Native Americans within Ecuadorian society. The other condition which I think is basic is that the Native Americans should participate openly within the state or that they should hope to have such participation.

[HOY] In what way have the Indians in Chimborazo changed since the uprising?

[Torres] They have grown stronger. The Indians of Chimborazo have always been considered to be tough fighters and combatants. They have always kept in mind the story of Daquilema and have added it to the history of their people.

[HOY] Do you foresee a new uprising?

[Torres] At present the way in which demands are made is changing. What I have seen over the past few months of 1991 is that the claims of the Native Americans have continued to acquire a provincial or trade-union character. The requests made to the government no longer are stated in general terms, like those which were included in the 16 points presented by the CONAIE [National Commission for Indian Affairs in Ecuador]. Now Native American petitions are taking more concrete form, and that is going to make it possible that the type of claim made is going to change significantly from now on. That makes it possible for me to think that no new uprising is being prepared.

[HOY] Do you continue to be hated by some people in certain sectors of the province?

[Torres] Yes. I believe that we are at a crossroads. About two years ago only the landowners were involved. Now there are other sectors of society which have joined with them and which echo what the military forces say. They want to downplay the work which I am doing. They want to criticize or misinterpret what the native Americans are doing.

[HOY] Do you continue to be harassed by those forces?

[Torres] Yes, not only me but the organization itself. We have the military intelligence service in Tixan continuously watching us, and they constantly follow our leaders. Often they cannot travel freely from Riobamba or Quito. They are followed so closely and so constantly that they even stop them there, as has happened during the last four or five months.

*** Poll Results Show Democracy 'Fatally Wounded'**

91SM0436C Guayaquil LA OTRA in Spanish
11 Jul 91 pp 22-23

[Article by Jaime Duran Barba]

[Text] If anything is clear in the polls carried out over the past few months, it is that a large majority of our citizens are tired of the political parties, of politicians, and of the principal way in which political life is carried on at present.

The majority of the Ecuadoreans see their standard of living collapsing, day by day, while they lose their hopes for a permanent job, steadily consume less, and are sunk in growing uncertainty. They also look sceptically at a spectacle in which, generally speaking, what is discussed on the political scene is simply personal accusations between their leaders and not solutions to their problems.

Some years ago what could have drawn attention because of its novelty has lost all of its attraction. No one can believe in a Congress in which some deputies sell their votes openly and at the cost of the people's patience.

Most of the political leaders have said so many things, so many times and so violently, that the great majority of the Ecuadoran people have come to a mistaken conclusion: all of the leaders are corrupt, self-centered liars.

The Political Parties Are Far From the People

The legitimacy of the parties and political leaders is growing stronger. The people consider them their spokespersons.

Nevertheless, at this point it would seem that many of our leaders are more interested in hurting each other than in serving the interests of the people. Many of the political parties, to a greater extent than the spokespersons of popular feeling, seem to be employment agencies in a time of bankruptcy.

Common and ordinary citizens regard political life as a spectacle in which they do not participate and which is too expensive for them. They feel that the political parties and politicians are increasingly concentrating their attention on resolving personal quarrels and dividing the crumbs of power, while they are less interested in resolving the people's problems.

For some years we have periodically been asking various questions to measure the strength of democratic convictions among the Ecuadoran people. One of the questions sought to learn whether those interviewed believe that the political parties are concerned with the problems of the ordinary people.

The poll conducted on 21 June 1991 broke all records for negative responses among the various surveys which we have made. About 87 percent of those polled, both in Quito as well as in Guayaquil, answered negatively.

The Corrupt Image of Democracy

In the same poll we asked those interviewed periodically to compare dictatorial and democratic governments in some respects.

Among other things we asked whether they considered democratic or dictatorial governments more corrupt. The results fit in with the images which the people have in these times of crisis. They were deplorable.

In Quito 34 percent of those polled said that democracy is more corrupt. Some 34 percent said that dictatorship is more corrupt, while 28 percent said that both of them were corrupt. So it was a dead heat.

In Guayaquil the proportions were different: 43 percent of those polled believe that democracy is more corrupt, 14 percent thought that dictatorship is more corrupt, while 37 percent thought that both were corrupt. For each four residents of Guayaquil who think that democracy is more corrupt, there is one who believes that dictatorship is more corrupt.

The Military and a Victory for Abdala

If one candidate has personified this violent style of political activity which the great majority of the Ecuadoran people reject, it is Abdala Bucaram.

His violent attacks on people near and far and the violent style of some of his supporters have provoked a true panic in the country.

Some things which, a few years ago, seemed rather picturesque and amusing have come to be regarded as dangerous. During all of the years of our professional activity we have never found anyone who is so much opposed by, and by so high a percentage of, the Ecuadoran people.

Among many other questions, when we asked whether those polled would agree that the military should stage a coup d'etat if Abdala wins the elections, the answer was surprising. About 68 percent of the people polled in Quito and 59 percent of those in Guayaquil said that they would prefer a military coup to a Bucaram government.

All of this does not mean, even for a moment, that I agree with the opinions held by a majority of those polled.

Personally, I do not share these viewpoints. I believe firmly in democracy and would defend it under any conditions. Nevertheless, I believe that it is worthwhile reflecting on these figures and these facts.

Continuing with the present line of scandal and personal attacks not only is bad for the country and democracy but also loses votes.

The faith of the Ecuadoran people in democracy is weakening. The great majority of the voters are tired of the spectacle which many of their leaders provide.

There are too many circuses and very little bread, too many personal confrontations, and very few solutions for the problems of the people. There are many insults and few solutions.

The communications media provide space for political scandals and news about crime. In the shadows, those who are opposed to confrontations are improving their position in the polls, although they say nothing. The people prefer silence to a continuation of this deplorable spectacle.

Dictatorship Rather Than Abdala

Would you prefer a coup d'etat if Abdala Bucaram wins? (percentage)

Alternatives	Quito	Guayaquil
Fully Agree	28.0	27.0
Agree	40.0	32.0
Totally Disagree	20.0	29.0
Disagree	10.0	10.0
Do Not Know	2.0	2.0

They Are Only Interested in Votes

Are political parties concerned about people's problems? (percentage)

Alternatives	Quito	Guayaquil
Yes	13.0	12.0
No	87.0	87.0
Do Not Know	0.0	0.1

Democracy Is More Corrupt

Is There More Corruption in Democracy or Dictatorship? (percentage)

Alternatives	Quito	Guayaquil
Democracy	34.0	43.0
Dictatorship	34.0	14.0
In Both	28.0	37.0
Do Not Know	4.0	6.0

Technical Details of Poll

The questions employed for this article were used by IESOP [Institute of Studies of Public Opinion] on 21 June 1991 on two samples of 400 citizens 18 years of age and older in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil.

The surveys have a possible, calculated error of 5 percent. IESOP assumes responsible for their validity. IESOP is a private, non profit institution dedicated to the study of public opinion. It has no relationship to political parties or groups or religious communities in Ecuador or in the region.

* PRE Candidate Seeks 'Political Alliances'

91SM0436D Quito HOY in Spanish 19 Jul 91 p 5A

[Text] Abdala Bucaram, the presidential candidate of the Ecuadoran Roldosist Party [PRE], has invited Julio Cesar Trujillo (a former member of the DP [Popular Democracy Party]), as well as representative of the Socialist Party, the National Liberation Party, and the Socialist Democratic Movement to begin a dialogue looking toward the elections of 1992. Nevertheless, he pointed out that the PRE already has Abdala Bucaram and Marco Proano as its presidential and vice presidential candidates. Bucaram said that he was convinced that there is no single political party in the country capable of directing a process of change.

During a press conference which he held on 18 July in Congress, at which he was accompanied by Proano, Bucaram said that the PRE is not interested in the position of president of Congress, because that is not part of the party's political strategy. He stated that, "Because we pride ourselves on being decent, we will not support the possible candidacy of Cecilia Calderon to that position."

He indicated that the PRE will not hold conversations with the Social Christian Party for the election of candidates on 10 August. He said: "On the other hand, we look with favor on the candidacy of a socialist and especially if he is Edelberto Bonilla, the current president of Congress, who is a very cultured person and a gentleman. He is making it possible to continue with the investigations into the death of Jaime Roldos."

Regarding the Republican Unity Movement, he said that its members are the "remnants and followers of employees of dictatorships such as Mauricio Gandara." He added that, "Jacinto Velasquez arranged for the cancellation of the sentence of Santiago Mateus," the son-in-law of Sixto Duran. He added that the Republican Unity Movement "is the blind which the ID [Democratic Left] is putting up as a gesture for saluting the flag, after ensuring that Raul Baca will be the candidate of the government party, because the whole ID is financed through the AZTRA [American Tropical Sugar Mill, Incorporated] and by Andres Vallejo, the candidate of Sixto Duran."

Bucaram Causes a Controversy

Guayaquil—Abdala Bucaram, the presidential candidate of the PRE, took advantage of an appearance on a TV channel to question the results of several polls, after having a "you tell me, and I will tell you" exchange with the host of the program. He stated that his activities are not dedicated 100 percent to politics. He said: "At this time I am involved in the importing business, in trade. I travel, not only to distribute campaign literature but also to work." He denied that on a return trip from abroad he brought back 50 suitcases. He said that in all he brought back 23 pieces of luggage.

* PRE 'Presents Accusation' Against Falcon

91SM0436E Quito HOY in Spanish 19 Jul 91 p 5A

[Text] Guayaquil—In Congress the legislative bloc of the PRE [Ecuadoran Roldosist Party] has accused Juan Falconi, the minister of industries, of irregularities in the sale of sugar by the AZTRA [American Tropical Sugar Mill, Incorporated] sugar mill.

The accusation was made by Alternate Deputy William Reyes to the president of Congress. It also includes a challenge to the two positions which Falconi holds. In addition to being a minister he is also chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Tropical Sugar Mill (AZTRA).

Abdala Bucaram, the PRE leader, specified that the minister was involved in an alleged transaction involving the sale of sugar worth eight billion sucres, "in which about two million quintals of sugar were stolen, which he sold, adding a surcharge of 3,000 to 4,000 sucres per quintal."

In Congress, Deputy Reyes asked that the motion for a political judgment against the minister be included in the agenda for the next, ordinary session, which will begin on 10 August.

*** Moscoso Favors 'Gradual' Economic Adjustments**

91SM0436F Quito EL UNIVERSO in Spanish
22 Jul 91 p 9

[Interview with Monetary Board President Rodrigo Moscoso by Wilson Araujo in Quito; date not given; first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] Dr. Rodrigo Moscoso, the president of the Monetary Board, agreed to have an informal conversation with EL UNIVERSO on current economic subjects and the problems which burden the economy.

In terms of personal appearance he is much younger than the photographs which the press publishes would indicate. He has a distinguished bearing and is very friendly, moderate, and, at times, austere in his expressions. However, he was not unwilling to talk and agreed to the following discussion.

[Araujo] What is your diagnosis of the economy?

[Moscoso] It is a difficult situation. It will require the effort of everyone to bring the country out of the economic crisis.

[Araujo] Have inflation, an excessive budgetary deficit, and the problem of the foreign debt caused that difficult situation?

[Moscoso] Yes, those are three fundamental problems which we economic leaders are making our best efforts to resolve.

[Araujo] What kind of efforts will you make?

[Moscoso] Every economic model requires gradual, seasonal adjustments. The processes of reform do not have to be traumatic. We will continue to make gradual adjustments, because this system has brought positive results. We are going to make every effort to achieve better results.

[Araujo] You were in the United States recently. Did you take advantage of that visit to make contact with the creditors holding our external debt?

[Moscoso] (He smiled.) No, because the president of the International Monetary Fund has not yet assumed his new duties.

My visit was spent on contacts with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, with which Ecuador had some success in the negotiation of new loans. The new loans will be formally approved in October. That will make it possible for the country to receive a flow of new money amounting to \$120 million annually over the next three years.

[Araujo] When will you next have a discussion with the creditor banks holding our external bank?

[Moscoso] There is no definite date when that will happen. I prefer, and I recommend this to the media, to avoid talking too much about this matter, as the less said about the debt, the better. Speculation is negative and can harm the image of the country with foreign countries.

[Araujo] How are negotiations going with the International Monetary Fund?

[Moscoso] At present we are working at the technical level with missions from that organization and the Central Bank.

[Araujo] Do the latest economic measures concern the technical work going on with the IMF?

[Moscoso] No, the measures which have been adopted are necessary correctives for moving forward with the implementation of the government's economic program.

[Araujo] What measures were taken?

[Moscoso] They involved balancing rates of interest, reducing the time needed to conclude the delivery of foreign exchange, and an adjustment of four percent in the rate of exchange for intervention by the bank.

[Araujo] What effects will those measures have?

[Moscoso] They are correctives for stabilizing the economy and preventing excess liquidity from continuing to cause inflation.

[Araujo] What measures were taken to resolve the deficit in the accounts of the Central Bank?

[Moscoso] This is a matter of great concern. All of the measures necessary will be taken to resolve this problem. However, it is a matter which will take time.

[Araujo] Is a new operational and administrative structure being proposed for the Central Bank?

[Moscoso] We are reviewing with a group of technical experts changes in the Law on the Monetary System, which will undoubtedly change the internal structure of the bank, as the institution issuing the currency. What we want is to change it into a reserve bank and to give it the original role for which it was established.

[Araujo] What contributions will the Monetary Board make to facilitate the participation of Ecuador in the free trade zone with its neighbors in the Andean Pact?

[Moscoso] We will study the best possible alternatives so that Ecuador can participate successfully in it.

Paraguay

Cultural Agreements Signed With Ecuador

PY1508223891 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
15 Aug 91 p 17

[Summary] The governments of Paraguay and Ecuador have signed an agreement creating mechanisms for cultural exchanges between the two countries and an agreement creating a mechanism of permanent consultation between the respective foreign ministries. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Hugo Saguier Caballero and his Ecuadoran counterpart, Mario Aleman, signed the documents.

Document Outlines Proposed Armed Forces Security

Part One

PY1408205991 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
14 Aug 91 p 2

[First in a series of installments of a document outlining a proposed Armed Forces security doctrine]

[Text] A document summarizing what will possibly be the new Armed Forces security doctrine was distributed during the last meeting held between businessmen and the Military Coordinating Board for the Military-Civilian Dialogue. General Anibal Regis Romero, who coordinates the dialogue, admitted to having distributed the document to some 20 businessmen who attended the meeting. The document contains a series of concepts and definitions about security measures to be implemented in Paraguay, and identifies new conflict hypotheses and their respective agents. As we deem the report to be in the public interest, we are publishing it as a series of articles.

The document, which according to Gen. Romero was distributed on the instructions of Brigadier General Lino Cesar Oviedo "so that the businessmen would learn about the National Security Doctrine enforced until recently," is divided into five chapters: 1. External and Internal Security; 2. The Current Political Scene; 3. Internal Security System; 4. Domestic Defense; and 5. The Use of Ground Forces in Domestic Defense.

The first chapter begins with the definition of what is national security. It states that national security is the degree of any guarantee granted by the nation, particularly by the state, through political, economic, psychosocial, and military actions. It adds that these actions are aimed at overcoming the existing obstacles and fulfilling and maintaining the aspirations, needs, and yearnings of the people and at allowing the country to develop.

It then states that the security of a country consists not only of external security. "This is only one aspect of national security; the other aspect is internal security. To

prevent national mutilation and to ensure the country a good basis for its development, both aspects of security must be well balanced," the text points out in justifying the need for an internal security doctrine.

The document notes the situation in Lebanon as a good example of the importance of a perfect balance between the two aspects of security. The text points out: "Having operational armed forces did not help much because the state did not have the required conditions to solve its problems regarding national internal security."

This chapter also mentions the Brazilian case when, after the end of the military regime, Brazil had to undergo changes in its views of how to face antagonistic actions [universo antagonico]. The document points out: "The communist parties were legalized and their political actions, officially carried out as political parties, were no longer illegal and were considered antagonistic actions, at least from the official point of view. Brazil preferred to force them to express their ideas openly instead of keeping them clandestine and acting as false victims."

The document then explains the factors taken into consideration in preparing a new internal security doctrine similar to the Brazilian model. They were:

The objective: To preserve domestic order and social peace, allowing the nation to live in a tranquil atmosphere.

The enemy: will live side by side with the people and will be more difficult to identify, let alone neutralize.

The ground: will not have the physical characteristics known to the military. The enemy will take action among the people, who will serve not only as the base for his actions, but also his final objective.

The means to be used "should not be restricted to weapons. If possible, weapons should not even be used," the document asserts.

In another paragraph, the document states that the Armed Forces' actions should be aimed at obtaining and maintaining the support of the people, thus making them immune to the actions of subversives.

The Current Political Scene

The chapter related to the current political scene begins by quoting Lenin: "Peace is the continuation of war through other means."

It then explains that the communist leader's words summarize the usual use of indirect aggression. It adds: "Communist movements have been using it since communism appeared on earth."

It also points out that subversive organizations take advantage of social and economic problems of nations, particularly in underdeveloped and developing countries, in order to destabilize them by supporting radical solutions. It adds that over the last few years, the

[Catholic] church has been an important supporter of this philosophy: "Faithless church officials openly encourage occupation of private properties and resolution of existing problems through armed fighting, while calling themselves members of the progressive clergy."

It points out that the political changes occurring in East European countries have not occurred in Latin America where, in addition to the progressive clergy, subversive organizations have one more ally: the drug traffickers.

Analyzing the issue of drug traffickers, the document states: "Increased freedoms allow the members of antagonistic groups to take action more easily among the people, while making it more difficult for the State to neutralize them."

Part Two

PY1508204091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
15 Aug 91 p 3

[Second in a series of installments of a document outlining a proposed Armed Forces security doctrine]

[Text] "The government is responsible for establishing development and security policies to carry out development and social peace," says the document in the chapter about the international security system. The document recently was distributed by General Anibal Regis Romero on the instructions of Brigadier General Lino Cesar Oviedo to some businessmen who attended a meeting with the Armed Forces' main generals.

The document says: "The government must use all the national powers to solve or reduce the current social and economic problems through development, and to prevent antagonistic actions in the field of security."

According to this new doctrine, the responsibility for internal security does not only belong solely to the Armed Forces but also to the entire nation.

Therefore, it is necessary to organize a system of internal security with the participation of all the organizations of public administration that have direct or indirect responsibility in internal security.

The document points out that this security system must be directly subordinate to the Republic's president, "who will have the power to put it into operation through various actions by directly enforcing the national power."

This is aimed at standardizing procedures and knowledge, making a quick and effective action possible, guaranteeing the ability to use all the available resources, and making permanent coordination possible.

According to the new doctrine, any security system must be based on "preventive actions" to prevent problems from occurring.

The document adds: "The identification of the causes of social tensions and the 'neutralization of subversive agents' must be made through the gathering of information."

The document says that to achieve "neutralization" it is necessary to strengthen the political, economic, social, and military structures.

The document also says that "the population must be protected through the development of psychological actions to neutralize propaganda action. But the important thing is to apply the national power in accordance with a development policy to allow the elimination of the causes of social tensions."

The document says that the preventive actions must be implemented on a permanent basis with the highest intensity, especially in the areas where problems have been found.

The document adds: "The repressive actions must be carried out according to the situation but their effects must be decisive and the political power must be responsible for their implementation."

The document also notes: The repressive measures will be implemented to neutralize the action of agents and to prevent the agitation from spreading.

The document also indicates that care must be taken because there is always the risk of affecting the people not involved in the problem.

The document also emphasizes that it would be ideal to have the police forces carry out the repressive measures. Therefore, the police must be well organized and trained to carry out this mission.

The document explains that the use of the Armed Forces in repressive actions is not recommended because this type of action belongs to the police and because "it may discredit the Armed Forces before the population."

The document points out that "a nation's armed forces must be the last resource in solving internal problems."

The document also says: The basis, the most important factor for the adequate operation of a security system, is to have effective information mechanisms and a structure capable of effectively carrying out social communications.

The document concludes on this issue by saying that if the government wants to create and maintain the conditions for developing the country it must organize a security system to allow the identification of the antagonistic actions and to have the minimum conditions to neutralize them. The system must carry out its actions gradually, its management must be centralized, its actions must be decentralized and all its members must carry out an integrated effort.

Drafted by Pentagon

*PY1508163091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
15 Aug 91 p 2*

[Text] Brigadier General Lino Cesar Oviedo yesterday confirmed that the document on security doctrine distributed to businessmen and published by the newspaper ABC COLOR "is a document drafted by the Pentagon, and that this doctrine is taught at the National War College, which has been known as the National Center for Higher Studies for over 22 years."

When questioned about the military coordinating board's objective in distributing the document to the businessmen, Oviedo said: "We decided to give them this document so that they could be aware of what was established by the OAS on the matter of national security and defense. This was the only objective."

Asked whether the doctrinaire concepts of the document were still in force, considering that military cabinet chief General Anibal Regis Romero had said that these concepts and definitions were outdated and had to be updated, Oviedo said: "They are still in force; these concepts have not been changed." He made it clear that these concepts are outlined by the Pentagon and that "they are designed not only for Latin America but for the entire world."

He was asked again why the document was delivered just to the businessmen and not to representatives of the civilian sector who had participated in talks with the military chiefs. Oviedo said: "The National Center for Higher Studies delayed a bit in delivering this document. But we have copies because this is a public document and consequently it is not designed for any particular institution."

In conclusion he said that those who want to learn about the national security doctrine must resort to the National War College.

Romero Says Concepts Outdated

*PY1508223491 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
15 Aug 91 p 8*

[Text] "It is a photocopy of outdated doctrinaire concepts concerning the National Security (Doctrine) that military institutes have used in the past as reference material. Other Latin American countries did the same," said the military household chief, General Anibal Regis Romero, during an interview with Radio Nanduti when asked about the military document handed to businessmen during last week's meeting. Gen. Romero also was asked to whom the document belonged. He answered: "I cannot tell you that because General (Lino) Oviedo gave it to me and asked me to make a few photocopies for the businessmen to show them what the National Security Doctrine was like in the past and what we want it to be today."

Asked about the date of issuance of this doctrine, Gen. Romero said: "We used it in the past when I was studying at the Command and Staff School. Now the National Security Doctrine has changed quite a bit and the approach to this subject is more modern."

PLRA Requests Clarification

*PY1508152091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
15 Aug 91 p 2*

[Text] Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, president of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party], has said that the PLRA is requesting a clarification of the Armed Forces document on internal and external security "because of the seriousness of this issue and with the hope of continuing the civic-military dialogue."

Benitez Florentin, who heads the largest opposition party, asked whether the document is an official Armed Forces document and if the possibilities of internal conflict expressed in the document are the current guidelines in the Armed Forces.

Benitez Florentin asked: "Can it be said that the Armed Forces, by delivering the document only to the business sector, is giving that sector the privilege of being the civilian representative?"

Benitez Florentin said that the PLRA will continue to support the efforts for reaching an understanding between civilians and the military. In this regard the dialogue is positive, he said, but "we are concerned, however, with the fact that the document was delivered to the business sector and not to other members of Paraguayan civilian society."

He said: "This can lead us to believe that security issues will only be discussed with that sector and that there is an Armed Forces policy to give privilege to that sector of society. If this is the case, the civic-military dialogue will not prosper as we are hoping it should."

Benitez Florentin added: "The concept of internal security in the document is obsolete. It is part of the cold war in a world which has left that behind."

Peru

Attorney General Receives BCCI Case Documents

*PY1508202491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1931 GMT
15 Aug 91*

[Text] Lima, 15 Aug (ANDINA)—Attorney General Pedro Mendez Jurado today confirmed receiving "a number of documents" from New York attorney Robert Morgenthau regarding the alleged bribing of two former officials of the Peruvian Central Reserve Bank [BCR] for placing funds in the BCCI [Bank of Credit and Commerce International].

Mendez said the documents will help clarify the case involving Hector Neyra and Leonel Figueroa, former BCR manager and president, respectively.

However, he explained that the documents received from Attorney Roberto Morgenthau "mention the bribes but do not mention the names of people involved."

Mendez Jurado made this statement as he left Congress, where he met with the commission in charge of investigating the illegal use of MUC [standardized exchange market] dollars.

Bank Officials Deny Bribes

PA1508180891 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0002 GMT
14 Aug 91

[Text] Lima, 13 Aug (DPA)—Four former high-ranking Peruvian Central Reserve Bank (BCR) officials today assured a Senate commission in Lima that they had no knowledge of alleged bribes paid by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) to obtain up to \$270 million in Peruvian deposits.

Former BCR Directors Carlos Canupay, Luis Guilfo, Enrique Cornejo, and Juan Candela agreed in their declarations before the commission—chaired by Liberal Senator Miguel Vega—that the decision to place funds with the BCCI had been made based on technical criteria and on a report issued by former BCR President Richard Webb.

During the ongoing investigation in New York intended to unmask the BCCI, it was disclosed that two former BCR officials, former Bank President Leonel Figueroa and former Bank Manager Hector Neyra, allegedly collected \$3 million in bribes from BCCI in exchange for placing over \$200 in deposits with the bank between 1986 and 1987.

On the evening of August 13, it was still unknown if Figueroa would appear before the commission at noon on 14 August, when the deadline granted to him to return from Chile where he resides, runs out. Senate group spokesmen noted that if the accused does not arrive before the deadline, the police will be contacted and his extradition would be requested.

The former bank directors who testified today insisted that they had no knowledge whatsoever of the alleged bribes, although they did confirm that Peru had decided to withdraw the funds from BCCI when that bank's alleged ties to illegal activities started to come out in the open.

The BCCI scandal has grown to considerable dimensions in Peru given the level of responsibility of Figueroa and Neyra, which falls within the framework of numerous accusations made against members of President Alan Garcia's administration (1985-1990). These accusations have even reached as high as the former president himself.

Senate Voids Decree on Teachers' Strike

PA1508143991 Paris AFP in Spanish 2342 GMT
14 Aug 91

[Text] Lima, 14 Aug (AFP)—Senate President Felipe Osterling announced today in Lima that the Peruvian Senate today left without effect the decrees suspending directors of state schools throughout the country and declaring illegal a teachers' strike already in its 99th day.

The measure is intended to reinitiate a new dialogue between the government and the Sole Trade Union of Education Workers (SUTEP) to save the school year and resolve a conflict that is negatively affecting more than 8 million students, Senator Osterling said.

During a meeting with the top SUTEP leader, Jose Ramos, Osterling informed him that he [Osterling] "will on Friday go to the Government Palace to speak in favor of finding a prompt solution to the conflict." Osterling told Ramos: "The Senate cannot do much, but we are going to do all we can to reestablish the dialogue."

SUTEP leaders have asked political and religious authorities to mediate in the prolonged conflict to help find a solution.

An official ultimatum had been issued giving the teachers until 14 August to put an end to the strike. Education Minister Oscar de la Puente had warned: If the SUTEP teachers do not return to the classrooms on Thursday, "they will be replaced by retired teachers and by law students in their last year of school."

In open rebellion against such an ultimatum, the SUTEP leaders have continued to urge the teachers to reject the deadline and to remain "firm in the struggle" until the government pays salaries for the month of July, Ramos stated.

Ramos argued: "We are not being intransigent. The government is being intransigent." Ramos affirmed that all the teachers want is to be paid their July salaries before returning to class.

Shining Path Rebels Murder Municipal Candidates

PA1508201891 Lima Global de Television Network
in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Shining Path rebels murdered three candidates for municipal offices in San Pedro De Cajas, Junin Department, on 14 August. This is part of the rebels' intimidation campaign prior to the municipal elections.

The victims were Andres Abilio Ascano, who was a candidate for mayor, and the candidates for deputy mayor and for alderman, whose names were not released.

Over the last few days Shining Path rebels have murdered four mayors in northern towns near Lima. With these last four murders, the number of municipal leaders murdered by the rebels over the last seven years increased to 140.